Correspondence 1883:
Sarah Orne Jewett and her Circle:

by

Sarah Orne Jewett

Edited by Terry Heller

Coe College

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Sarah Orne Jewett Press

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Editorial Practice in Transcriptions

^ ^ : The author has inserted text.

abc : The author has deleted text.

[ ] : Editorial comments and descriptions.

{ } : Editorial insertions in pursuit of clarity.

Jewett's periods often appear as dashes, and also often are indistinguishable from commas. Where her intentions seem clear, I have placed commas and periods; when not sure I have given the dashes or included a note.

Like many of her correspondents, Jewett is not consistent in using other punctuation, especially apostrophes. I have presented words needing apostrophes as she and her correspondents present them.

As nearly as practical, these transcriptions mirror the appearance of the manuscripts. However, I cannot guarantee they are free of errors. Readers wishing for certainty when working with these letters should consult the manuscripts.

Internet Access to this Material

The Internet Archive

and

Sarah Orne Jewett Text Project
https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/1-jewettpress/index-sojp.html

Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents

This list includes people mentioned frequently in this volume. A more fully annotated "Key to Correspondents" appears in a separate volume and on the internet here:
https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/let/Corresp/1-persons.html
Most people mentioned in this volume are identified in that list.

Jewett's immediate family

Caroline Frances Perry (1820-1891), Jewett's mother.

Mary Rice Jewett (18 June 1847 - 28 September 1930), Jewett's older sister, often addressed as O.P.

Sarah Orne Jewett. Jewett's various nicknames appear often in these letters. She often signs herself Queen and Queen of Sheba or Sheby, and she is called Sadie, Pin, Pinny, Owl and Owlet.

Caroline (Carrie, Taddy) Augusta Jewett (1855-1897), Jewett's younger sister.

Others

Thomas Bailey Aldrich: (1836-1907), author and editor of *Atlantic Monthly*. Jewett also wrote often to his wife, **Lilian Woodman Aldrich** (1841-1927). Nicknamed the Duke and Duchess of Ponkapog. They often referred to Jewett as **Sadie Martinot**.

Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin: (1825-1896), wife of Massachusetts politician William Claflin (1818-1905). Her step-daughter was **Emma Harding Claflin Ellis** (1841-1909).

Robert Collyer: (1823-1912), Unitarian clergyman.

Annie Adams Fields: (1834-1915), author and Jewett's domestic partner. Jewett often refers to her as A.F. Other nicknames include T.L., Flower and variations on "Fuff."

Eben Norton Horsford: (1818-1893), American scientist. Jewett became friends with all of his family.

William Dean Howells: (1837-1920), novelist, critic, editor at *Atlantic Monthly.*

Celia Laighton Thaxter: (1835-1894), American author and artist.

Sarah de St. Prix Wyman Whitman: (1842-1904), American artist and designer of several Jewett book covers.

John Greenleaf Whittier: (1807-1892), American poet, usually called "Thy Friend."

Annie Adams Fields to Eben Norton Horsford

148 Charles St.

Jan. 9th 1883.

Dear Professor Horsford

How can I thank you, or fail to remember when things do not go quite as I should like, the happiness you gave me last evening!

In the afternoon I had been wishing for help to accomplish some work in the district* of the city where I am especially occupied. I wanted another messenger and could not see my way clear. When your note came and its generous

[*Page 2*]

gift such a sense of relief came over me and of gratitude that I understood for the time in a new way what a divine gift our friends are to us.

Thank you above all for this reassurance of your friendship and confidence and believe me, (with every affectionate good wish to you and yours,)

Most faithfully

and gratefully

your Annie Fields.

Notes

district: Fields refers to her work for the Associated Charities of Boston.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Fales Library and Special Collections, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University. Sylvester Manor Archive 1649-1996, MSS.208, IV: Horsford Family, Box 59: Folder 35. Fields, Annie Adams: Connecticut, Maine & Massachusetts.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Hotel Winthrop

1st Mo 10 1883

Dear Annie Fields

How kind it was for thee and dear Sarah* to be with us yesterday morning! Indeed it was a great comfort to sit beside you while the last services for my brother* were performed; and to feel that, if another beloved one had passed into

[*Page 2*]

the new life beyond sight & hearing, the warm hearts of loved friends were beating close to my own. You do not know how grateful it was to me!

Dr. Clarke's* presence and words were full of comfort.

My brother did not approve of an ostentatious display of flowers, & his wife declined the offer of his Custom House friends in that respect; but he loved violets, and your simple flowers were

[*Page 3*]

[*unrecognized word*] in his hand. We followed to New Chelsea station, & then the casket was taken on to Amesbury to be placed by the side of Elizabeths.* I am glad he is at rest after his long trial & suffering.

A Snow Storm of the old New England fashion is raging without this morning. I suppose you will be at home today, though I suppose no weather keeps thee from thy good work. I wish I could be with you by the parlor fire,

[*Page 4*]

enjoying what Emerson calls "the tumultuous privacy of storm."*

Ever affectionately

your friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

brother: Whittier's brother, Matthew, died on 7 January 1883. Matthew Whittier's second wife was Jane Elizabeth Vaughan (1820-1895).

Dr. Clarke's: According to the New York *Times* account of the funeral, American theologian and author, James Freeman Clarke (1810-1888) officiated: "... after Scripture reading, [Clarke] offered a few simple and touching words in memory of the deceased."

This account also notes that "there were no floral offerings, the Poet Whittier simply bearing a bunch of pansies in his hand." "Funeral of Matthew F. Whittier" (January 10, 1883, p. 2). Perhaps the unrecognized word indicates that the violets (not pansies) that Whittier held during the service were placed in his brother's hand after the service.

Elizabeths: Whittier's sister, Elizabeth H. Whittier (1815-1864).

privacy of storm: Ralph Waldo Emerson died on 27 April 1882. Key to Correspondents. Whittier refers to his poem, "The Snow-Storm."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4783.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury 18th 1 Mo. 1883*

Dear Annie Fields

I have just got the news of Hoar's election,* and I hasten to shake hands with thee upon it. Of course our letter did it!

Massachusetts is saved from the disgrace of allowing Butler* to dictate her choice of Senator: and she has made it certain that she will be well-represented for the next six years.

[*Page 2*]

Next year I feel assured she will redeem herself from Butlerism by the election [*possibly three unrecognized words*] for Governor.

We are having a beautiful winter day. The streets are [merry *?*] with sleigh-bells. Tell Sarah* that [Dr. *?*] Leslie* would like to take her with him as he drives in his rounds. With love to her, ever affectionately

John G. Whittier

Notes

1883: Huntington Library Archivists have interpreted Whittier's ambiguous handwriting to assign an 1882 date for this letter, but his report of the re-election of G. F. Hoar to the United States Senate (see notes below) shows that the letter must be from 1883.

Hoar's election: George Frisbie Hoar (1826-1904) was a Massachusetts Republican politician, first elected to the United States Senate in 1877. Whittier, therefore, is referring to his successful re-election, which took place at the beginning of 1883. At this time, Massachusetts senators were chosen not by popular vote, but by the Massachusetts General Court or legislature.

Whittier's letter supporting Hoar's candidacy appeared in the Boston *Advertiser*. The letter and Senator Hoar's response are quoted in *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*, Volume 2, p. 685.

Butler: As a powerful Democrat politician in Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin Butler (1818-1893) was not admired by Whittier. Beginning on 4 January 1883, Butler served a single year as Massachusetts governor.

Whether Whittier actually gives a name for the person he hopes will replace Butler as governor is not clear. George D. Robinson, a Republican, followed Butler in the governor's office (1884-1887).

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Leslie: Horace Granville Leslie (1842-1907), a physician and poet, served as a surgeon in the Civil War. See *The Granite Monthly: A New Hampshire Magazine*, Volume 39 (1907), p. 326.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4687.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

148 Charles St. Jan. 22d 1883.

My dear friend;

It was a pleasure to see your handwriting and to have one word together about the success of "thy" letter! It proved quite long enough I am glad to know.

How good Mr. Hoar's* short note of thanks was to his Massachusetts friends.

Sarah Jewett was pleased the other night to meet Mr. Crawford,* the author of Mr. Isaacs. He is but twenty=eight years old. It appears that Ram Lal is really Koot Hoomi the

[*Page 2*]

famous man who is spoken of in England nowadays and whose letters are to be read in a book called Sinnett's* Occult Science in which Celia Thaxter* is now deeply interested.

I hope the quiet of Amesbury and the presence of the dear ones who must always surround you there are doing you good, but we need you here and feel as if we could not let you stay away too long.

[*Page 3*]

Sarah and I think if we could only have you here we should know just how to take care of you and that nothing could give us such satisfaction!! And so we build castles in the air, which are just

near enough for us to believe they may become realities.

What an unusual experience mine is to have this dear sweet child brought as it were directly into my arms! I think nothing indeed* I know that in no possible way could I

[*Page 4*]

feel so assured day by day of the divine love and the nearness of the unseen.

Dear friend, our love and that other love is with you making the days possible and sometimes even beautiful until the end — I know it because I feel it day by day.

Your

Annie Fields.

Notes

Hoar's: George Frisbie Hoar (1826-1904) was a Massachusetts Republican politician, first elected to the United States Senate in 1877. This letter refers to his successful re-election, which took place at the beginning of 1883. At this time, Massachusetts senators were chosen not by popular vote, but by the Massachusetts General Court or legislature.

Whittier's letter supporting Hoar's candidacy appeared in the Boston *Advertiser*. The letter and Senator Hoar's response are quoted in *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*, Volume 2, p. 685.

Crawford: American author, Francis Marion Crawford (1854-1909) was the author of *Mr. Isaacs, A Tale of Modern India* (1882). Ram Lal appears in this novel as an Indian spiritual adept.

Sinnett's: In letters to Annie Adams Fields of September 1883, Thaxter reported more than once about her reading of Alfred Percy Sinnett (1849-1921), *Esoteric Buddhism* (Houghton Mifflin 1883).

WorldCat does not list *Occult Science* by Sinnett appearing before 1883. It seems likely that Fields refers to *The Occult World*, published in 1883. Sinnett dedicated that book to Koot Hoomi Lal Singh. In the book, Sinnett quotes extensively from his correspondence with this Mahatma, who is said to be one of the founders of the Theosophical Society in 1875.

The Wikipedia article on Koot Hoomi or Kuthumi notes a lack of verifiable information about this person and considerable skepticism about his actual existence.

Thaxter: Celia Thaxter, Key to Correspondents.

indeed: Part of this sentence is faded, and I am uncertain about the punctuation.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

Annie Adams Fields to Lilian Aldrich

Saturday

[Feb 8th *possibly in another hand*]

[*1883*]*

[*Begin letterhead*]

148. Charles Street,

Boston.

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Duchess:*

Is all going well for Tuesday at four? And are you to be at home tomorrow? Our neighbors the Millets* will come over here if you do not go to them, so I am anxious to know.

Also to explain two envelopes I left

[*Page 2*]

for his Grace, the Duke, when I was so unfortunate as to miss him.

I thought he would like to read the letter about Taylor* and [after *or* offer *?*], and wanted to ask Mrs Taylor's address

[*Page 3*]

that I might send it to her.

Is the list of [homes *or* houses *?*] in which to meet already satisfactory to you?

Ever your

A. F.

Notes

1883: This date is somewhat problematic because in 1883, 8 February fell on Thursday. As that part of the date appears to be in another hand, it may indicate when Aldrich received or responded. By August, Fields knew Mrs. Bayard Taylor's address, for she was expecting a visit from Mrs. Taylor.

Duchess: The Aldriches were whimsically nicknamed among their friends, the Duke and Duchess of Ponkapog. Key to Correspondents.

Millets: Journalist and publisher Josiah Byram Millet (1853-1938), Fields's next-door neighbor in Boston.

Taylor: Maria Hansen Taylor (1829-1925) was the widow of the American poet Bayard Taylor (1825-1878). Mrs. Taylor was collaborating with Jewett correspondent Horace Scudder in compiling material for *Life and Letters of Bayard Taylor* (1885).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: MS Am 1429, Box 6, Items 1446-1538.

Celia Thaxter to John Greenleaf Whittier

[*Unrecognized word*]

Feb. 12th (83

My dear friend:

I send another wonderful chapter.* This is perhaps the most [amazing *?*] of them all, it comes so clear —

Do not think I am being taken off my feet, in that I give all this undue thought. I never go out of my way for it, if it comes I take it, as I do every other thing in life — It never interferes with anything else in any way, only I feel it ~~in~~ in a beautiful undercurrent which buoys me over difficult places & puts strength & patience into me. Do not fear, my good & faithful friend —

Let me have this when you have read.

Thanks for your dear note.

Now & always

Yours faithfully

Celia Thaxter —

Notes

chapter: Probably, Thaxter has written an account of her experiences with Spiritualism. In a letter to Annie Adams Fields of 3 April 1885, Thaxter reports that she has been writing an account of her recent Spiritualist sittings.

See Terry Heller, "Communing with the Dead: Celia Thaxter, John Greenleaf Whittier, Sarah Orne Jewett, Annie Adams Fields" in *Spirits and Photos*, Sarah Orne Jewett Press 2023, 2025.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Monday morning

[*19 February 1883*]*

Dear darling your letter has done me good, and I wish you would scold at me a great deal more than you ever do — I dont believe it was anything but tiredness that made me miserable when I read the Atlantic notice* — An awful* feeling of despair rushed over me at the thought of doing any more writing at all. This has been one of the times when I really have lost all my interest in my stories — and it was not ~~the~~ so much that

[*Page 2*]

my pride was hurt as that I felt entirely incapable of doing anything more ~~at all~~. When I think about it now, seriously, I am sure that I have done the best I could at this work of mine, and so I have nothing to fear. I shall be better by and by, and the stories will begin to write themselves down again but the truth is that most of the time now I am really ill — It frets me even to think

[*Page 3*]

about copying and all the rest of it! and at the same time I am worrying because I cant get my work done when for many reasons it would be best.

— I begin to dread [next *corrected*] winter before this one is finished — I wonder why the people who are well most of the time are not a great deal better contented! I believe I should not mind anything much if I were only well —

I didn't mean that you scolded

[*Page 4*]

me, little books!* I don't know why that word pushed itself in — for I thought your letter was the dearest bit of love and wisdom anybody could ask for — (As for the verses — I must tell you that some of them have been printed already and the boat-song* — which I was so glad to have you like — was given to a little fair paper in Portsmouth once — and more than that a musician who happened to see it when he drove in to the fair)

[*Manuscript breaks off. No signature.*]

Notes

19 February 1883: This date is highly speculative, but with some circumstantial support. Jewett wrote a letter to T. B. Aldrich tentatively dated 20 February, informing him that "Boat Song" had been published previously, after Fields had let him have it for consideration (see notes below). Jewett dates this letter "Monday morning." It seems reasonable to guess that after writing to Fields on Monday 19 February 1883, Jewett realized that she should also write to Aldrich on this topic.

The other likely year during Aldrich's editorship at *Atlantic* would be 1888, when 20 February fell on a Monday, but in that year, it was Fields who was suffering from serious illness, and by late February, she and Jewett were planning their first trip to St. Augustine, FL.

Parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled by Fields.

Atlantic notice: This remark is quite puzzling, for no *Atlantic* review has yet been discovered that was seriously negative about Jewett's work. On one hand, as *Atlantic* and Houghton, Mifflin published much of Jewett's work, they had an interest in promoting it and were unlikely to print strongly negative opinions. On the other, reviews of Jewett were fairly consistent in emphasizing various kinds of limitations of her work, nearly always saying that what she produced was the best of a limited kind of writing. It is not yet known, then, which notice or review may have provoked Jewett's reaction.

awful: Above this difficult to read word, penciled neatly in another hand, appears the word "awful."

little books: It appears that someone has referred to Jewett's books as "little" in a way that upset her.

boat-song: Weber and Weber report Jewett's statement that "The Boat Song" first appeared in a little paper published at a fair in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. However, this paper has not been located. John Austin Parker, according to Nagel and Nagel's *Sarah Orne Jewett: A Reference Guide*, writes in "Sarah Orne Jewett's 'Boat Song,'" *American Literature* 23 (1951): "Among the uncatalogued materials of the Library of Congress is a copy of 'Boat Song,' words by Miss Sarah O. Jewett. Music by Richd. Hoffman. New York: G. Schirmer, c. 1879."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

South Berwick

20 February [*1883*]*

[*Letterhead of the initials* SOJ *superimposed*]

Dear Mr. Aldrich

Mrs. Fields* has just written me that [*deleted word*] you — I mean the Atlantic — took the boat song* away to be printed — I'm afraid you wont want it, for it is already in print. I gave it to a little paper that

[*Page 2*]

was published at a fair in Portsmouth and Hoffman the New York pianist saw it by chance and set it to music and it was afterward published by some music publishers. I am very sorry, for I wish it could be in the Atlantic and this all puts it out of

[*Page 3*]

the question doesn't it? I wrote it for the Atlantic to begin with, strangely enough. Mr. Howells* sent to me for some verses at a time when he had a musical department in the magazine — but he didn't like my boat song though I have always been fond of it myself.

— I hear that the Duchess* goes to New

[*Page 4*]

York today, and I wish her a pleasant journey. I wish she had been coming here instead, though I must confess that I dont find Berwick delightful at this time of the year —

Good-by my dear friend!

Yours always sincerely

S. O. J.

Notes

1883: This is the earliest likely year for the composition of this letter. It may pair with a letter to Annie Adams Fields, tentatively dated 19 February 1883.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

boat song: Weber and Weber report Jewett's statement that "The Boat Song" first appeared in a little paper published at a fair in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. However, this paper has not been located. John Austin Parker, "Sarah Orne Jewett's 'Boat Song,'" *American Literature* 23 (1951), according to Nagel and Nagel's *Sarah Orne Jewett: A Reference Guide*, writes: "Among the uncatalogued materials of the Library of Congress is a copy of 'Boat Song,' words by Miss Sarah O. Jewett. Music by Richd. Hoffman. New York: G. Schirmer, c. 1879."

See Howells to Jewett of 1 November 1876.

Richard Hoffman (1831-1909) was a British-born American pianist and composer.

Mr. Howells: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

the Duchess: Lilian Woodman Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Horace Scudder

South Berwick

3 March —

[*1883*]*

Dear Mr. Scudder:

I ought to have told you that Mr. Warner* wished to have the manuscripts returned to 148 Charles St. instead of to Hartford, in case you do not wish to use them* — but I

[*Page 2*]

forgot this when we were talking yesterday.

Yours ever sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1883: Richard Cary has assigned this date, but offers no rationale. Having no other helpful information, I have accepted this date.

Warner: Charles Dudley Warner. Key to Correspondents. Warner was then editor at *Harper's Magazine*.

About the manuscripts, Cary speculates: "Miss Jewett may be referring to some sketches or poems she sent to Warner, with the request that he relay them to Scudder if they were not suitable." Cary further notes that in 1883, Jewett was a frequent contributor to both *Harper's* and the *Atlantic Monthly.*

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A62: to Horace Elisha Scudder., 1869-1901 and undated. Richard Cary's annotated transcription appeared in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters* (1967). New transcription and notes

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Ellen Frances Mason to Sarah Orne Jewett

Sorrento

Easter Sunday

[*25 March 1883*]*

Dear Sarah,

You know I always think of you on this day, and like to send you a greeting. It has been such a lovely day for Easter. It is not too tropical here to be spring-like — all the fruit-trees are in full bloom, and the air perfumed with the blossoms and the birds are hailing the return of spring as joyously as if they had been

[*Page 2*]

having a very hard winter. How you would enjoy the wonderful beauty & picturesqueness of this place! You would like to lay the scene of some story here, I am sure — And speaking of your stories brings me to the confession I have been meaning for some time to make to you — I hope you have not heard it already, for I should [be sorry to *written over other text*] have you learn it from anyone else that I translated the "Socrates" of which I [send *?*]

[*Page 3*]

you a copy. I wanted it to be a secret and have succeeded in keeping it one so far, but I hear that it is ^beginning to be^ ~~getting~~ known now, so I fear it will {not} be kept back any longer — And I did not tell my friends of it, as I knew they would be the first ones to be questioned if any suspicion of the truth arose, and that they would be placed in a very awkward position { — } either obliged to tell stories, or betray me. So I decided to refrain from confiding in them, and I

was too much afraid of being suspected by them to ask them to read "Socrates," as I should

[*Page 4*]

like to have done — Only to you I venture to give copy. I did so want to know how it would strike you. But you would not [commit *changed from* compromise] yourself at all. It really seemed as if you had an instinct that I had done it, and had made up your mind not to give me satisfaction — But that would have been too unlike you — I often thought while I was doing the work how I wished I could ask you about it. I know you would have helped me so much — I think you would have wanted me to make the language more beautiful.

[*Page 5*]

I am quite conscious that in many places it is awkward, but I could not see my way out of this fault if I was to continue true to my purpose of making it as literal as I could. One has to follow out one's own idea you know, and if I had tried I could not have followed in Jowett's* steps (of course I need not say that it would have been miles behind him) and turned Socrates quaint sayings into beautiful, nay modern English. I had to creep along my own little

[*Page 6*]

word for word path, and render it into the best equivalent I could find. But I am sure you would have been able to give me many hints, & if I can undertake anything of the [thing *so written*] again, I may call upon you for help, may I not?

I hope you have seen [Mr Grace *?*],* as you thought you should — I know the pleasure will be as great on his side as on yours. I am sorry I have taken up all my pages with my stupid old Socrates, but it had to be explained and now I have no time to write more. You have heard,

[*Up the left, across the top, and up the left margins of page 1*]

have you not, that we are coming home on the 17th of June, for the summer{,} coming abroad again in the autumn. We are overjoyed at the prospect, but it hurries us [again *?*] again, as we have a long programme to carry out before June. It will be so good to be at home again in dear Newport much as I enjoy all here. I [*unrecognized word*] as I do that — Always afft yrs

Ellen F. Mason

[*Cross-written down the right half of page 5*]

Please, if you do not hear anything in regard to the authorship of Socrates, do not say anything about it, as I am very anxious to have it still suppressed if possible —

Notes

1883: Choice of this date is based upon Mason's publishing a first Socrates translation that year. See notes below.

There are some random marks in this letter that appear to be unintentional.

Socrates: Ancient Greek philosopher, Socrates (470-399 BC). Mason published two translations of Socratic materials: *A Day in Athens with Socrates; translations from the Protagoras and the Republic of Plato* (1883) and *Talks with Socrates about Life: translations from the Gorgias and The Republic of Plato* (1886). Presumably, Mason here refers to her first book.

Jowett's: English theologian and translator, Benjamin Jowett (117-1893). Wikipedia.

Mr Grace: This transcription is uncertain, and the person has not yet been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Mason, Ellen Francis, 1846-1930. 4 letters; [1900 & n.d.]. bMS Am 1743 (148).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 97, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Easter Sunday

[25 March *1883*]*

My dear friend:

What a naughty girl our Sarah* was to frighten you with a new appeal for an autograph! She took a wicked pleasure in the success of the deception and was much entertained in turn by your story of the deacon.

She will write you about it —

We have been to church and heard a man who comes from Michigan, a Bishop, by the name of Harris.* His text was from St. Paul*

where he speaks of ['Christ *corrected*] who is alive"! To us who have lately thought of this subject

[*Page 2*]

it was evident that Bishop Harris is what [we *?*] call a spiritualist and it was strange to hear such things said to a conservative audience in Trinity Church. I fancy the larger number of hearers "did not mind much"; in the old days I, for one, would not have understood. I cannot be sure how far the Bishop carried his faith into the lives of people about him but after explaining how Christ was alive and present with us in the spiritual body he said that the promise

[*Page 3*]

was we should live with him. The phrases were all out of St. Paul and the ears of the multitude were so accustomed to them that they did not seem shocked or struck with wonder, but the Bishop himself was greatly in earnest about this companion and comforter who was so near us and who was seen two or three times after [his *correction*] ascension and in a manly fashion he tried to make the people understand.

I wonder if you know Bishop Harris — I wonder how far he carries this faith and what experience he has had.

[*Page 4*]

We were both deeply impressed by his discourse — it was a sign of the times indeed.

———————

Mifs Woolsey* [has *corrected*] been to see us; [and *corrected*] told us a strange tale of a Dr. Mercer a clergyman in Newport who lived all his life dependent upon the kindness of a few ladies. Mrs Pell in particular took him home to her own house where he lived and died after (2 years in the living!) greatly to the discomfort of the Pell family{.} He went at last, and left his effects to fourteen ladies who had been good to him but chiefly to Mrs Pell — It was discovered that he had a million of dollars!! So all these good souls who were none of them rich are happily rewarded — Isn't it a pretty tale!

We do not like to think of you still in the heart of winter —

Your letter was [*obscured word*] to us — Your loving Annie Fields

Notes

1883: This date is tentative, supported by the relationship between this letter and Whittier's to Fields also tentatively dated in April 1883, in which he comments on her report of the Bishop's sermon. See notes below.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

deacon: See Jewett to Whittier of 6 April 1883.

Harris: Clergyman and author, Samuel Smith Harris (1841-1888) became the second Episcopal Bishop of Michigan.

Whether Harris entertained spiritualist ideas is not yet known. The term "spiritualism" does not appear in a posthumous collection of his writings, *Thoughts on Life, Death and Immortality* (1891).

Fields apparently considered Trinity Episcopal Church in Boston to be a conservative church, but historically its reputation is liberal in doctrine. Still, Fields must be right that the congregation was not especially receptive to Spiritualism.

Paul: Saint Paul the Christian Apostle. His missionary activities are recounted in the Bible, the Acts of the Apostles. Wikipedia.

Fields sometimes presents her quotations with a single mark at one end and a double mark at the other.

Woolsey: Sarah Chauncey Woolsey. Key to Correspondents.

Mercer ... Pell: These persons have not yet been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at the Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Wed eveng.

[*Spring 1883*]*

Beautiful dear Flower,

I'm going ^tomorrow^ to Camb. myself to [lunch *corrected*] with a friend & take her along to Miss Hawes' preachment about Hebrew music. When I come in I shall pass so near you I am coming in to bring you the photographed nose of the Sandpiper & also to ask you particularly about Miss Ireland,* for Sandpiper

[*Page 2*]

had an awful streak of luck, Sandpiper did!

Did you say you could get [Isis *?*]* for six dollars? Do get it for Sandpiper! for she wants another copy. Mrs. Angier* wants to buy this one she ^Sandpiper^ has, & is quite willing to pay 7 for it, herself & Joanna going shares!

Will tell owl & Flower all about Sandpiper's luck. And please save the [magazine *?*] about the palm tree for her.

[And *? corrected*] if you are busy, Sandpiper will hop home — Owl's & Flower's

[*Stick drawing of a Sandpiper*]

Notes

1883: This date is speculative, but it should be close. As the notes below suggest, Thaxter shared with Elizabeth Angier and her sister, Joanna Rotch, an interest in Spiritualism, which for Thaxter began in 1882, when the sisters first are known to be mentioned in Thaxter letters. Mrs. Angier died in January of 1884. This letter could have been written in late 1882 or in Spring or Fall of 1883, times when Thaxter would have been residing in Portsmouth, NH. I have arbitrarily placed it in the spring of 1883.

Miss Hawes': Charlotte White Hawes (1840-1926) was a Massachusetts composer, lecturer, music educator, poet and critic. One of her lecture topics was "Hebrew Music." Thaxter planned to attend a lecture in Cambridge, MA.

Isis: This transcription is uncertain, but given Thaxter's interests and those of Joanna Rotch (see note below) in Spiritualism at the probable time of this letter, it seems likely Thaxter refers to *Isis Unveiled: a Master-Key to the Mysteries of Ancient and Modern Science and Theology* (1877) by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (1831-1891).

Miss Ireland: This person has not yet been identified.

Mrs. Angier: Probably Elizabeth Rotch Angier (1815-1884), a Thaxter acquaintance who shared her interest in Spiritualism. Her sister was Joanna Rotch (1826-1911) of Milton, MA, who was an associate member of the American Society for Psychical Research in 1885-9.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University MS Am 1743, Box 7 item 321a. III Letters to Annie Adams Fields. 4 letters from Celia Thaxter.

Anne Isabella Thackeray Ritchie to Sarah Orne Jewett

Kew, April 1.

[*1883*]*

My dear Mifs [Jewitt *so spelled*]

When your most charming book & your kindest of kind letters came I was in great trouble with my little Billy* ill of Scarlatina & my little Hester sent off into lodgings. [*deletion*] The book was not allowed to be taken into the house but was sent [*deletion*] ^straight out^

[*Page 2*]

to [dear *?*] Hester in her exile poor [little *?*] maid{.} I have always been going to thank you & waiting [*deletion of several words in parentheses*] until I & the book (w. I read to Hester during a few days interval when I abandoned Billy to go to her) should be together

[*Page 3*]

under the same roof again. But as this seems farther off than ever & as we are going on farther now instead of returning home I feel I may as well tell you [without *corrected*] [*deletion*] ^longer delay^ how much touched I was by your kindnefs & [dear *?*] kind remembrance & by the opportune

[*Page 4*]

sweet little stories. ^I was so grateful to [them *?*] — They couldnt have come at a time [when *?*] they were more prized both by my [daughter & myself{.}^ It was a great [& *?*] real pleasure to me to see you both that day — I do trust that before very long we may meet again & please give my love to Mrs Fields & thankyou dear Mifs Jewett* from yours sincerely & gratefully

Anne Ritchie*

Notes

1883: This is almost certainly the right date. Jewett and Fields were never in England on 1 April during any of their European trips. However, they visited Anne Ritchie in October 1882, when her daughter Hester was 4 and son William was 2. Since Ritchie describes her children as little, the following spring would seem the right time for this letter. It is possible, however, that this letter follows a Jewett and Fields trip of 1892, but there is as yet no record that they visited Ritchie on that trip. In 1893, Hester would have turned 15 and William 13.

If the date is correct, and if Jewett sent Ritchie one of her own books, then almost certainly that was *Play Days* (1878), a collection of children's stories.

Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

dear Mifs Jewett: Ritchie may have deleted these words.

Ritchie: After the signature, penciled in another hand: [Thackeray's daughter.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Miller Library, Special Collections, Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

148 Charles St —

Friday 6 April

[*1883*]*

My dear Friend

The Sandpiper* says "Oh give him my love and say that art is a-swallowing the Sandpiper up! [*deleted quotation mark*] — else ~~she~~ ^I^ should be writing him too" —

Indeed the dear bird is very busy — not with pots and pans just now — but with watercolor pictures — for she is taking lessons of Ross Turner* at last, and is succeeding wonderfully. The upper

[*Page 2*]

room here looks like a studio and there is a picture of Venetian boats that would win your heart — By all this you will see that C.T. has come for a visit and I must also tell you that we are reading Mrs. Carlyle's letters* together and having a very good time generally — My sister Mary* is still in town — and [everything *corrected*] goes on much as usual — there are more schooners and little boats out in the river

[*Page 3*]

and the grass in the convent garden* really looks as if it thought about growing green.

— I have been shut up in the house for a good many days for the rheumatism keeps coming back with seven others like the devils of scripture* — and I have been good-for-nothing at all. —— Oh what a beautiful story it was about the old deacon! and how sensible it was of the two of them to see if they liked

[*Page 4*]

before they undertook so serious a thing as getting married!* I think it is a pity more people had not done the same thing — I am sure I [hope *corrected*] the <u>hens</u> liked too! it is <u>so</u> funny to think of his starting out with his hens! — I cant think who the old fellow is — but Berwick is a great country.

We were both so glad to get your letter and dear T.L.* sends a great deal of love. I shall write again soon and I am always yours most lovingly Sarah

Notes

1883: Another transcription is held in transcriptions from mixed repositories, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, folder 63, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection in the Maine Women Writers Collection. That transcriber positively dates this letter in 1883, but that is uncertain because the "1883" after "6 April" appears to be in another hand. Still, that date is supported by Jewett's mentioning that she and Fields were reading an 1883 book, the Jane Welsh letters.

Sandpiper: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

Ross Turner: "Ross Sterling Turner [1847-1914] was a painter, watercolorist, and illustrator, active in the Boston area, known for his landscapes and floral subjects." Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Carlyle's letters: Probably *Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle* (1883), edited by James Anthony Froude.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett.

convent garden: According to Rita Gollin, Louise Imogen Guiney in an 1898 profile of Annie Fields described the Fields house at 148 Charles St. in Boston as containing a "homelike convent cell," where Fields composed her work (*Annie Fields* p. 279). While it is not certain that Jewett refers to the Charles Street garden, this is possible.

with seven others like the devils of scripture: In Luke 8 appears the account of Mary Magdalene, whom Jesus freed of seven devils.

married: It appears Whittier has told Jewett a local story that later became central to the plot of her own story, "The Courting of Sister Wisby," published in *Atlantic Monthly* in May 1887.

T.L.: Nickname for Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers I. Letters to John Greenleaf Whittier Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 17 letters; [1882]-1883. Box: 3 Identifier: MS Am 1844, (169).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury

4 Mo

[*After 6 April 1883*]*

My dear friend

Thy letter was very welcome. I value more and more as the time grows short, these kind remembrances.

I wonder whether the good Bishop, whom thee heard, really believes that all our frds are still really with us, from the other side. There is a great deal of indefinite talk among clergymen about these matters, which when enquired into proves to be wholly unreal.* For myself, not having seen or heard, I believe. But, I dont wish to come in contact with professional ghost-seers. I don't want to put myself in ^the^ way of being cheated by them. Why would our dear ones come to us directly in our

[*Page 2*]

best moments? — They [they *repeated*] do sometimes I have no doubt. I will possess my soul in patience for the little time I have to wait here, assured that, if my friends do not manifest themselves to me in this state, I shall soon meet them beyond.

I am glad to learn by [Sarah *corrected*] Jewett's letter that Celia Thaxter is making pictures with brush as well as pen. She has the eye & soul of a painter.

This morning has a wintry look. The grass is white with snow, & the trees are loaded. I have been suffering for the last week with almost constant pain in the head, which totally unfits me for writing or reading or thinking. Tell Sarah Jewett that I am more than her match in the matter of rheumatism.

[*Page 3*]

I enclose a bit of rhyme which I do not pretend is poetry — but the grimmest kind of realism. I felt it a duty to remind the extravagant eulogists of [*unrecognized word*] Calvinism,* of some of its doings.

Tell dear Sarah that I shall answer her kind letter as soon as I am well enough. With love to her & Celia Thaxter, I am ever & affectionately thy friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

1883: The Huntington Library has speculatively dated this letter in 1888. However, it seems more likely that Whittier refers to a letter he received from Sarah Orne Jewett, currently dated 6 April 1883, in which she reports that Celia Thaxter has begun taking painting lessons. For Thaxter, Key to Correspondents.

He appears to respond also to Fields's letter tentatively dated 25 March 1883, in which she reports the sermon of a visiting bishop at Trinity Church.

unreal: Whittier is discussing his response to Spiritualism, a controversial belief system that flourished in the United States after the Civil War (1861-1865). Key beliefs were that the spirits of the dead wish often to communicate with the living, and that some people, Spirit Mediums, have the ability to facilitate such communication. Fields, Jewett, and Celia Thaxter all showed interest in this system at one time or another. Whittier also responds to the relatively frequent exposure of spirit mediums as charlatans with skepticism that the dead often desire to communicate with the living.

The Bishop to whom Whittier refers has not yet been identified, and it is not clear whether he refers to a clergy title or a person with this name.

See also, Terry Heller, "Communing with the Dead: Celia Thaxter, John Greenleaf Whittier, Sarah Orne Jewett, Annie Adams Fields" in *Spirits and Photos*, Sarah Orne Jewett Press 2020, 2025.

Calvinism: As a Quaker, Whittier rejects Calvinist beliefs, particularly the doctrine of predestination. It is not yet known to which of his poems he refers.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 72-4693.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Kittery Point, Apr. 8th (83

Dearest.

Just have a word from Mrs Dickinson — Mrs Ashley,* her cousin, was dead, she never dreamed it when she sat with you ~~last~~ ^that^ night. She had just got the news ^when she wrote me^ after waiting five days for it, her mother had been sick in bed & could not answer before — Mrs Ashley died very suddenly — Marion had not the slightest ideas [she *corrected*] was gone —

She went to hear Phillips Brooks* Sunday. As she listened eagerly to what he was saying Rudolph* stood by them, (herself & Ida)* & said to her "Hear!" & then came such eloquent closing words, "Look to it that your deeds in this life be such that the spiritual body be not deformed" [&c. &c. *?*] You heard it, dear Annie, what Mr Brooks said. Rudolf watched them while they listened to the preacher, smiled, & was gone —

[*Page 2*]

Marion has been having a terrible time with her eyes { — } [that *corrected*] is why you have not seen her — After all, the trip to Florida is coming off, I believe, tho' she was thinking of giving it up — She caught a cold & it settled in her eyes — I hope I shall not miss her when I go to town, but I fear — Never mind — she will be coming to me soon & we shall go, D. V.* to the Shoals together —

I am so glad it was ^really^ as it seemed to her that night at your house! The Scientists will call it mind reading — but we know better —

In haste, with dearest love to you & Pin

Your C.

Notes

Mrs Dickinson — Mrs Ashley: In other letters from Thaxter to Fields, Mrs. Dickinson is identified as Marion Dickinson, a spiritualist medium, wife of Sidney Dickinson. Very likely, she is Marion Miller (1854-1906), second wife of Sidney Edward Dickinson (1851-1919). His Find-a-Grave biographical sketch indicates that at the time of this letter, he was studying and traveling in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. See also A Mother's Letter from Northampton, MA – 1882.

Mrs. Ashley has not yet been identified.

See Terry Heller, "Communing with the Dead: Celia Thaxter, John Greenleaf Whittier, Sarah Orne Jewett, Annie Adams Fields" in *Spirits and Photos*, Sarah Orne Jewett Press 2020, 2025.

Phillips Brooks: Key to Correspondents.

Rudolph: This person has not yet been identified.

Ida: This may be Ida Higginson, a Jewett and Fields friend, or Ida Bothe, a German-born artist active in Boston during the 1880s, or Ida May Garrison (1848-1891), who married John Wilson Candler (1828-1903), a U.S. Congressman from Massachusetts, 1881-3 and 1889-91. For Higginson, Key to Correspondents.

D.V.: *Deo volente*, Latin: God willing.

Pin: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields and Sarah Orne Jewett

Milton Hill — 10th Apr 83

Dearest Flower & Owl:

Here I am "in the lap of luxury" so to speak, in the dearest airy room with a bright open fire by a broad window facing the west, looking over to the billowy blue Hills, all my paints & traps before me, ready to plunge into my day's work. I forgot to ask you to send any letters after me, to Milton hill, but I shall go in on Friday, & find them at 101, Pembroke St, I dare say — These sweet ladies [a *intending* are] very lovely & kind & I enjoy everything but I miss my Flower & Owl! With dearest love & thousand thanks for my beautiful, beautiful time.

Your loving

[*Signed with a stick drawing of a Sandpiper*.]

Notes

Milton hill: Now a historic district in Milton, MA.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

148 Charles St.

Thursday April 12th

[*1883*]*

My very dear friend;

Your most welcome letter and the strange true tale of the Women of Dover* came in to greet us night before last. It is a strong awful tale in itself and as you have told it without abating one jot of its terrible truth the [bare *corrected*] rehearsal gains a [prophetic *corrected*] voice and purpose — I am thankful you were able to do it.

I wish you were nearer to us in these later days! As the Spring returns and we find ourselves still here, walking

[*Page 2*]

with our dear shades, more and more we seem to need to touch the visible hands of those we love that we may hold ourselves erect until the hour for dismissal shall come.

You will be sorry to hear that Sarah Jewett has not been as well as usual since her last letter to you. The sharp neuralgic pains have kept her awake and have taken away

[*Page 3*]

her strength. She is already better now however and is playing at being "like other folks".

We have been amusing and enlightening ourselves over Mrs Carlyle's letters.* They are wonderfully witty. She shrinks at nothing but tells the whole unvarnished tale. I think we shall more of us think the worse {of} "T. Carlyle' himself after reading these — Pray let me send them down to you if you feel like looking them over. Her tale about

[*Page 4*]

revisiting her birthplace after her mother's death is a bit of writing worthy of a more famous name in literature.

Think of the Governor's getting Mifs Barton* for the prison after all! I felt like giving him three cheers this morning — Everybody said he couldn't do it except those who said he did not mean to do it and now it is done. Also the Tewksbury business, vile as it is, needed to be done in some way —

General Armstrong* has been here, reminding me as he always does of the young Daniel{,} or those who walked over hot ploughshares{.} I am sure he would never know they were burning if a party of unfortunate [indians *so written*] needed him on the other side —

[*Up the left, across the top, and then up the right margins of page 1*]

We both send you our dear love and constant remembrance. What will become of Dr. Holmes* if he [drinks *?*] the cup of glory to the dregs in this way!

Affectionately yours Annie Fields.

Notes

1883: 12 April fell on a Thursday in 1883. And see notes below.

Woman of Dover: Whittier's poem, "How the Women Went from Dover: 1662" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in June 1883. It recounts the story of the persecution of three Quaker women.

Mrs Carlyle's letters: *Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle* (1883), edited by James Anthony Froude. Scottish author, Jane Welsh Carlyle (1801-1866) was the wife of a more famous Scottish author and historian, Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881). Wikipedia.

Barton: American nurse, Clarissa Harlowe Barton (1821-1912). According to the National Park Service, in May 1883, Barton was appointed temporary superintendent of the Massachusetts Reformatory Prison for Women in Sherborn, by Governor Benjamin F. Butler, but she resigned after eight months.

During 1883, an investigation of the Tewkesbury Massachusetts asylum for the mentally ill produced frequent press stories of horrific abuse and corruption.

Armstrong ... Daniel: Samuel Chapman Armstrong. Key to Correspondents.

Fields refers to the Biblical prophet, Daniel, who in his youth was placed in a den of lions, from which he emerged unharmed. In the Book of Daniel appears as well the story of three Jews

who refused to worship the gods of Babylon and were cast into a fiery furnace which they also survived. Wikipedia.

Holmes: Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. Key to Correspondents. To which glories Jewett refers is not certain. Several of his books were published that year, including collections of his writings and his biography of Ralph Waldo Emerson. In 1884, he traveled to Great Britain to receive honorary degrees from Oxford, Cambridge, and Edinburgh universities.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Amesbury 4th Mo. [14 *?*] [*1883*]*

My Dear Friend

Last night I was sitting by my fire musing rather sadly over the old days and the old friends who have passed with them, when the mail brought me letters from dear Annie Fields* and thyself, and the proof-sheets of thy "Landless Farmer."* — the luckiest mail I have had for months. The shadows of thought vanished, and, as the good old book says, "In the evening there was light."* And I

[*Page 2*]

thanked God for giving me such friends.

I found the "Landless Farmer" true as a sun-picture to the life and atmosphere of a farming neighborhood and the story of the poor old Uncle Jerry full of genuine pathos.

I read only a few days ago — "The New Parishioner"* and liked it heartily. It has rare touches of quiet humor, and the maiden lady's characterization is admirable. "She couldnt help being a woman but she needn't have been a fool," is a wonderfully apt reflection on her part.

[*Page 3*]

"A. F." tells me that you have been reading Mrs Carlyles letters.* I wish I could see them, and if she will send the book to me at Oak Knoll I shall thank her. I expect to be there by the middle of next week. I have not felt well enough to leave here as soon as I expected: I want to visit Folly-mill woods and see if the May flowers are in bloom. A friend in Washington sent me some a few days ago. But I like to find them under the leaves on the pine-slopes where I used to seek them, long ago, with my sister.*

[*Page 4*]

I am sorry to know of thy suffering from neuralgia. It is a fiendish ailment, as I know too well. To-day it is clear & sunny, and beautiful to look at, but an evil East wind is blowing which gives me neuralgia in ten minutes exposure to it. And yet I like New England. I couldn't stay where there are no rocks, & hills, & mullein pastures, & pine woods.

Tell A F that I join her in congratulating Gov Butler on his grand success in capturing Clara Barton.* It is the sole success of his Administration, thus far.

With love to you both,

John G. Whittier

Notes

1883: This date is penciled in another hand at the top right of p. 1, and was given the letter in an earlier transcription by Richard Cary. All information in the notes below supports this choice.

Annie Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

"Landless Farmer": Jewett's story, "A Landless Farmer," appeared in two parts in *Atlantic Monthly*, May and June, 1883.

there was light: It is not perfectly clear which old book Whittier means. While this line echoes the narrative of the universe's creation in the Bible, Genesis 1, one old book, Whittier actually quotes exactly the final line of his poem, "What the Birds Said" which had appeared in his not very old book, *The Tent on the Beach* (1867).

"The New Parishioner": Jewett's "A New Parishioner" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in April 1883.

Mrs Carlyles letters: *Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle; Prepared for Publication by Thomas Carlyle,* Edited by James Anthony Froude. (1883). Scottish author Jane Welsh Carlyle (1801-1866) was the wife of author Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881).

my sister: Whittier had two sisters, Mary Whittier Caldwell (1806-1861) and Elizabeth Hussey Whittier (1815-1864).

Gov Butler ... Clara Barton: As a Democrat, Benjamin Franklin Butler (1818-1893), though he had been a union army officer, was not

admired by Whittier. Still, Whittier is clearly pleased with Butler's appointment of Civil War nurse, Clara Barton (1821-1912), to head the Massachusetts Reformatory for Women, during his single year as governor of Massachusetts (1883).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence. Letters from John Greenleaf Whittier, MS Am 1743 (235).

This letter has been transcribed previously. See Pickard, *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*. v. 3, and Richard Cary, "Whittier Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett," in *Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier*. John B. Pickard, ed. Hartford, CT: The Emerson Society, 1968, pp. 13-14. New transcription and notes.

Ellen Tucker Emerson to Annie Adams Fields

Concord, 20 April 1883*

Dear Mrs Fields,

I thank you very much for your kind note. It is very pleasant to have such invitations. Please give my friendly remembrance to Miss Jewett.* How very

[*Page 2*]

long it is since I have seen you! If I have the opportunity I shall come at least to pay my respects before you go away for the summer, but perhaps I cannot. I seldom go to Boston in these days.

Yours truly

Ellen T. Emerson.

Notes

1883: The invitation Emerson speaks of seems likely to correspond with the first anniversary of R. W. Emerson's death, 27 April. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Jewett.: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields Papers and Addenda, Box 16: mss FI 5637.

Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett and Annie Adams Fields

Kittery Point. Apr 26th (83

Dear Owl & Flower:

We came down all together in the 12 train yesterday. We met John* in Ports. & he & Lony drove over here & Mr T. & I took a dory & were rowed five miles down the river & up the creek to within a mile of the house, the tide being high & we walked the rest of the way, about a mile. It was unexpectedly pleasant. I wondered if that was what Mrs Wilde* meant by her "little bit of happiness!"

[*Page 2*]

We found the house as bright and pleasant as possible. Annie had every thing spick & span & shining & comfortable, a fire in my room & in Mr T's & a nice dinner ready; it was about five oclock when we arrived — It was really comfortable & pleasant — The fierce & wild N-West blows today, the great drear sea stretches to the great cold sky{,} the pastures are chill & bare, the trees bare armed in the wild wind, but the sun is bright & cheers the house.

[*Manuscript ends, no signature*]

Notes

John: See Celia Thaxter in Key to Correspondents. John and Roland (Lony) are her sons.

Mrs Wilde: The identity of this person remains unknown. There were at least two authors named "Mrs. Wilde" to whom Thaxter may refer. Constance Mary Lloyd (1858-1898) married Irish author Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), but she was not yet well-established as an author in 1883. Oscar Wilde's mother, Jane Francesca Agnes, Lady Wilde (1821-1896), however, was a well-known Irish poet, who published under the name "Speranza." Neither of these women is yet known to have published the phrase "little bit of happiness."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

Celia Thaxter to Mary Rice Jewett

[*27 April 1883*]

Dear Mary:

Many thanks for the book & your kind little note. They telegraphed me to go at 12, & so I missed you: it was too bad —

I hope when Sarah* comes you will surely drive down together to see us, — with ever so much love am yours

Affectionately

Celia Thaxter

Kittery Point

April 27th (83.

Notes

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is in the collection of the Miller Library of Colby College, Waterville, ME.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

148 Charles Street

Saturday, April 28, [*1883*]*

My dear Friend

Here it is, almost May Day! and all the aches and pains that "neurology" knows how to produce ought to be over by that time — I have thought of you a great many times and wondered how you were getting on. Last night I dreamed that I went to a charity meeting with A. F.* and there was a great row there, and in attempting to take her part I fell over a wall and hurt my arm abominably. In fact

[*Page 2*]

it waked me up it ached so, but it was no benevolent alms-giver who brought me to such distress; I had simply connected a familiar subject of thought with the familiar pain! However, T. L. was greatly amused with the dream. The particulars of the battle were very edifying — — —

I have been writing again by fits and starts and this time the story is called The Hare and the Tortoise —* It is a love story with its scene laid in Boston! and the Hare and the Tortoise are two

[*Page 3*]

lovers! and in this fable it is the Hare that wins the race. I was glad you liked the Landless Farmer{.} I think you will find the second part better when you see it in the magazine [than *?*] it was on the uncorrected proof-slips. Mrs. Fields is sending you the Jane Carlyle books* which we have enjoyed so much! I see them now, put out for Patrick* to 'do up' with his usual precision ——

We went to Manchester by the Sea — Thursday, to see about opening the house ^on^ Monday

[*Page 4*]

when we go down again. It was a hard day* for poor T. L. but we made the best of it, and had a great many pleasures after all. The frogs had thawed out — they were talking in their sleep at any rate — and the barberry-bushes were covered with dry fruit on top, where the improvident people had not thought it worth while to harvest. The sun shone through the berries with marvellous effect* and we had a famous drive back to Beverly, where we took the half past four train instead of waiting at Manchester an hour or two. We were in

[*Page 5*]

an excellent buggy with its top ^put^ back and the sun kept us very warm, and we gathered some pussy willows almost grown into — cats — if one judged by their fur — The sea was as blue as it could be and furthermore we ^had^ had a picnic at the back of the house on the hilltop where we were sheltered from the wind. T. L. pointed out the Danvers road to me with great satisfaction and expectation of our travelling over it

[*Page 6*]

by and by. I must say goodbye — for here comes T. L. up-stairs having finished her days house-keeping and now we are going out to do some errands together. She sends her dear love to you and so do I —

Yours most affectionately,

Sarah.

Notes

1883: Richard Cary dated this letter, presumably because Jewett's "The Hare and the Tortoise" was published in 1883. 28 April fell on a Saturday in 1883.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields, also called T.L. in this letter. Key to Correspondents.

Tortoise: "The Hare and the Tortoise," *Atlantic Monthly*, August 1883.

"A Landless Farmer" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in two parts, May and June 1883. Cary notes:

Whittier had written: "I found the 'Landless Farmer' true as a sun-picture to the life and atmosphere of a farming neighborhood and the story of poor old Uncle Jerry full of genuine pathos." (Cary, "Whittier Letters," 13.)

Carlyle books: Cary notes:
James Anthony Froude, editor, *Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle, Prepared for Publication by Thomas Carlyle* (New York, 1883), 2 vols. The packet may also have contained Thomas Carlyle's *Reminiscences*, edited by Froude (New York, 1881), about which Miss Jewett had written: "I have been reading Carlyle's *Reminiscences* — the Jane Welsh Carlyle [chapter], as you may suppose." (Fields, *Letters,* p. 17.) Copies of both books are in Miss Jewett's library.

Lynch: Patrick Lynch was employed by Fields.

hard day: It is likely Jewett refers to this being the second anniversary of the death of James T. Fields on 24 April 1881.

marvellous effect: Jewett uses this image in he rstory, "Farmer Finch," which appeared in two parts in *Atlantic Monthly*, May and June 1883.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA. A previous transcription by Richard Cary appears in "'Yours Always Lovingly': Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 107 (1971): 412-50. New transcription and notes.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Kittery Point. May 1st

(83

Dearest Annie:

Your letter was a comfort & a joy — A thousand thanks, as ever. I wish I could see you & dear Pin.* It is such a beautiful 1st day of May, the sea pale turquoise blue & calm & smiling, the grass green on the bare slopes, the buds thickening on the trees, the birds singing, the frogs [rippling *?*] & hylas piping sweet — And a simmering of work going on all over the farm, Roland* busy setting out Persian lilac & purple beech & wild sweet briar, & pine

[*Page 2*]

& spruce trees & all sorts of things round the house — thank heaven he is on his feet! & Karl busy with his laths doing all kinds of jobs, & John wrestling with oxen & plough, & in front of the kitchen door a gang of men blasting a foundation for a kind of woodhouse to be built of stone, & general business going on every where. I am working hard to get Mrs Hearsts* book off my hands every

[*Page 3*]

minute I can get, so please pardon the short scrawl — You dear, dear, dear Annie! I love you so dearly{.} You are so sweet to me. Do write soon again & kiss Pinny for me & thank her over & over for her kind letter — I hope you got your two books — Thank you — I am always saying it when I turn to you — For now, goodbye

Your faithful C

Notes

Pin: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Roland: Karl, John and Roland are Thaxter's three sons.

Mrs Hearsts: Mrs. Hearst has not yet been identified. It appears that she has asked Thaxter to illustrate a book for her, probably one her own books, such as *Among the Isles of Shoals* (1878). See Norma Mandel, *Beyond the Garden Gate*, pp. 132-8.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Danvers

5 Mo. 5 1883*

My dear friend

I have just rcd thy welcome letter. The volumes of Mrs Carlyle's letters* came duly, & I have been reading them with no common interest. What a strange sad revelation! What a tone of desperation in these letters, thinly disguised by the common phrases of "Dearest," and "O my dear husband." There is no sincerity in these professions. They did

[*Page 2*]

not love each other so much as they loved and pitied themselves. Carlyle loved nobody, & nothing and I do not find that Mrs. C. was much different {.} Neither of them seems to have had any faith in God or immortality. But how bright & witty, and "canny" some of these letters are! What expletives "more forcible than pious"* she uses! I wonder whether she & Carlyle didn't swear at each other sometimes. What ^can^ these two be doing in the new life? —

Very slowly the Spring comes this year. [I *corrected*] think it will not come at all

[*Page 3*]

until Summer blazes down upon us. The birds are here however, robins, blue birds, & song-sparrows. We have had great town meetings of crows in our pines, and the handsome blue & white night-herons have made their appearance. But the winter has been hard on our lawn — patches of grass have been killed by the ice, — which gives it an unpromising look. The fruit trees, though very backward, are looking well & the peaches will soon be in blossom.

I suppose you will go to Manchester soon. Sarah* told me of your drive there. You would need furnace fires there now with the bitter wind blowing over sea.

[*Page 4*]

I am sorry exceedingly for Sarah's rheumatic trouble. She must not write until she is better.

I shall have to go to Amesbury soon to get ready for our Quaker Quarterly Meeting, though I hope to be in Boston next week when I shall see you if you are still in town. Give a great deal of love to Sarah Jewett, and take a great deal to thyself from thy affectionate friend

John G Whittier

Notes

1883: This manuscript includes a number of penciled marks: The numeral 9 appears at the top center of page 1. Before the first sentence of the letter appears an "x". It is possible that several parts of the letter were very lightly underlined. These marks have not been included in this transcription.

Mrs Carlyle's letters: In April 1883, Fields and Jewett sent Whittier *Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle, Prepared for Publication by Thomas Carlyle* (New York, 1883), 2 vols., edited by James Anthony Froude.

In his notes, Pickard says that Whittier later revised his judgment of Jane Carlyle, saying that she was "'cut out' for a very noble woman."

forcible than pious: An internet search indicates that this phrase has been in common usage since the 19th century, but leaves its origin unidentified.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4777. This letter has been transcribed previously by Pickard, *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*. v. 3. New transcription and notes.

Annie Adams Fields to Eben Norton Horsford

May 7th 1883.

[*Begin letterhead*]

148. Charles Street,

Boston.

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Professor Horsford;

I have written you more than one little letter lately in my mind which has not found its way to paper, but now that I may thank you for your note of yesterday at the same time I must [fulfil *so written*] my wish to tell you of some of the good things your generous gift to me early in the winter* has accomplished{.}

First, however let me say that it is always a pleasure

[*Page 2*]

to find the characteristic things which I know so well remembered and [recalled *?*] and I should not have seen the [*unrecognized word*] save for you.

As for the money I think I may have written you how much I wanted it just when it came for employing a messenger for two weeks to

[relieve *?*] our agent —— 5.00

Lent to a lame man to buy a stove — 15.00

which he is paying slowly back.

For the Herald, (to get employment) 2.00

To send a man & wife to relatives in Australia — He was a [Frenchman *?*] & he could not get work here 15.00

[*Page 3*]

For having a young girl sent to 4.00

be taught housework — The money was not for the teaching but to make up a little sum for the mother in place of the girl's [miserable *?*] work at her former employment.

Milk for a consumptive boy — 2.00

To women for help in drinking cases — 2.00

~~For~~ ^Towards^ sending a family away — 2.00

——

$50.00

———————————

You will be sorry to hear that Sarah Jewett goes to Berwick next week.

Will it not be possible for you and Mrs Horsford and your dear daughters to come to tea here Sunday afternoon at half past six o'clock? It would give us both

[*Page 4*]

sincere pleasure if you can find it possible to come.

Believe me

Sincerely yours

Annie Fields.

Notes

winter: See Fields to Horsford of 9 January 1883. Fields refers to her work for the Associated Charities of Boston.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Fales Library and Special Collections, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University. Sylvester Manor Archive 1649-1996, MSS.208, IV: Horsford Family, Box 59: Folder 35. Fields, Annie Adams: Connecticut, Maine & Massachusetts.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Shoals. May 8th (83

My dearest:

We came out yesterday, Oscar* ran the Pinafore into Brave boat harbor* & brought me. Karl not yet. It looks so beautifully here — & all the houses so fresh & pretty in their olive green gowns & red roofs. I am only going to stay a week & go back for Karl. I hope there will be a chance to send [to the mail *so written*] — but I know not. Life is uncertain —

10th Yesterday, dear Annie, I got my little garden planted. They gave me a man to help me & we did it all before 12 o clock, spading & manuring & raking & laying out of [lot *?*] & planting seeds — I put in a quart of sweet peas & a quart of nasturtiums & every thing else "according"{. }

2

The boys laugh at me for putting in so many seeds, but experience has taught me that only about half come up & half of those live. The wild cucumbers are a pleasure, so numerous & so strong, & when I think of the screen of airy green all draped with that honey sweet white lace of blossom, I feel so grateful to you, dear, who gave me the first seeds. I have put a Michaelmas daisy in the middle of each center bed, in each half of the garden — Little [Tanna *?*] & I lugged all the things out of the parlor in the morning & got the tacks loosened in the carpet & in the afternoon, Lucy & Ella came up, took the carpet up & cleaned all the paint, windows & pictures & scrubbed the floor & then Cedric & Pip* put down the new carpet & replaced the stove & it is as fresh as a flower. Today we mean to put back all the things

3

& shut it up & leave it. The house is so pretty & so much improved, tho' I do have a long flight of steps to descend to get down to the [garden *corrected*]. It is all charming but oh Annie, I am awfully sad. Somehow I cannot be happy in it as of old. I feel as if I ought to be at the farm, the feeling grows every year, tho' the moment I get there I feel so depressed that I had rather be dead. Yet I am afraid it will end in my staying there altogether. Because it seems more possible to manage with K. * there, than before. But I don't know —

The soft rain is coming down on my dear little garden. The weather is so sweet! You are ahead of me this year, I wonder if your seeds will be up this year first! Cedric has made his little wife's

4

garden so pretty. Every thing is "flying," Lucy says, "as if it had wings," so much business going on, gangs of men working in all directions.

The Warder* cottage fronts mine, on the hill, it does look "beautifully. They have put electric bells all over all the cottages — Oscar says you have but to press a knob & you have anything you want, no matter what it is, how rare & strange & remote — He is so funny about it. I have painted another panel for him since I came — I expect to go back to the farm on Saturday & be there a week or ten days. Do write to me there, you dearest. Give my love to the sweet owl.* I have put her owl inkstand on my writing desk, & freshened the desk with a piece of new olive green felting which I nailed on all round with small brass nails = it looks so very pretty!

5

I hope there will be a chance to send to the P. O. today, but know not — However will get all my letters ready — Goodbye dear, for now —

O Annie, I did not get to see your sister after all, I was so hurried. Will you make my excuses to her, will you say that I did not & could not make calls on any body — I couldn't find the time & didn't pretend to — But I was just as grateful to her for her remembrance & kindness. Do tell [her *blotted*], Annie dear, & make her feel how it is.

Ever & ever & ever

Your most loving

C.

Notes

Oscar: Thaxter's brother, Oscar Laighton. She also mentions her other brother, Cedric Laighton, and her oldest, disabled son, Karl / K. Key to Correspondents.

Brave boat harbor: Now a conservation area on Gerrish Island in southern Maine, north of Portsmouth, NH. The *Pinafore* was the Laighton family's steam tug.

Tanna ... Lucy & Ella ... Pip: The transcription of "Tanna" is uncertain. One might expect to see "Hanna," but the first letter does not appear to be an "H." None of these people has yet been identified.

Warder: This transcription is uncertain. Possibly, the cottage owner was the family of banker George Aston Warder (1816-1881) of Philadelphia, PA. In his memoir, *Ninety Years at the Isles of Shoals*, Oscar Laighton recalls a "George Warder," as among those who spent time on Appledore Island.

owl: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury 5 Mo. 10 1883*

My dear Friend

I scarcely need to bid thee "Good morning" for it is unmistakably good here & I hope it is also at Charles Street. Spring is here at last, just in season to welcome Summer. I am sorry to find that the hard winter has destroyed some handsome spruces which I planted eight years ago, and which had grown to be fine trees. Though rather late for me, I shall

[*Page 2*]

plant other trees in their places, for I remember the advice of the old Laird of Dombiedike to his son Jock: "When ye ha'e nothing better to do, ye can be aye sticking in a tree: it'll be growin' when ye are sleeping."* There is an ash tree growing here that my mother planted with her own hands at [three *corrected*] score & ten. What agnostic folly to think that tree has outlived her who planted it!

I have read the letters of Jane Carlyle* over again, and find that my first judgment

[*Page 3*]

of them was too severe. She was "cut out" for a very noble woman. Her wit and humor are simply marvelous. If she had married a man she really loved she would have been a happier & better woman. There is no excuse for Carlyle's shaking his fist in the face of the Divine Providence that had given ^him^ such a woman.

I wonder whether our Sarah Jewett is with thee or at S. Berwick. I hope thee are not quite alone. Do thee read "The Wizard's Son"* in the [Living Age *?*] ? It strikes me as the most wonderful story of many years. It is [wild *?*] enough

[*Page 4*]

to satisfy our friend Celia Thaxter.*

I enclose a bit of verse* which perhaps thee have not seen.

I read the article on Emerson in the Lecture Room* with great satisfaction. I see it is noticed by all the papers.

With grateful affection

John G. Whittier

Notes

1883: The Huntington Archive reads Whittier's difficult handwriting to date this letter from 18 May 1883. This may be correct, but to me, he seems to have written "10," so I have altered the date. J. B. Pickard included portions of this letter in his *The Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*, taking them directly from S. T. Pickard's *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* (see notes below) and retaining the date assigned in the original transcription: 19 May 1888. As the notes below indicate, this date clearly is mistaken.

This manuscript contains several pencil marks: the numeral "6" at the top center of page 1, an "x" in the left margin of page 1 next to the line "which had grown to be", and another "x" to the left of the page 2 line "planted with her own." To the left of the penultimate paragraph — "I read the article" — appears another light pencil mark, and this paragraph also seems to have a light vertical pencil line through it.

sleeping: From Scottish author, Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832), chapter 8 of *The Heart of Mid-Lothian* (1818). Whittier has slightly altered the passage.

Jane Carlyle: In April 1883, Fields and Jewett sent Whittier James Anthony Froude, editor, *Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle, Prepared for Publication by Thomas Carlyle* (New York, 1883), 2 vols. See Whittier's letter to Fields of 5 May 1883.

Wizard's Son: Margaret Oliphant (1828-1897) was the popular Scottish author of *The Wizard's Son* (1884). The novel was serialized in *Macmillan's Magazine*, November 1882 through March 1884 (v. 47-9).

The novel also was serialized in the United States in *Littell's Living Age*, 158-160 April 1883 - March, 1884, where Jewett, Fields and Whittier read it.

Whittier's remark that the story is wild enough for Celia Thaxter references the novel's central problem, the sinister ghost the protagonist inherits with his estate. At this time, Thaxter was deeply devoted to Spiritualism and its practices of communion with the dead.

Celia Thaxter: Key to Correspondents.

bit of verse: With this letter in the Huntington archive is a newspaper clipping of Whittier's "What the Traveller Said at Sunset."

The shadows grow and deepen round me;
I feel the dew-fall in the air;
The muézzin of the darkening thicket
I hear the night-thrush call to prayer.
The evening wind is sad with farewells,
And loving hands unclasp from mine;
Alone I go to meet the darkness
Across an awful boundary-line.
As from the lighted hearths behind me
I pass with slow, reluctant feet,
What waits me in the land of strangeness?
What face shall smile, what voice shall greet?
What space shall awe, what brightness blind me?
What thunder-roll of music stun?
What vast processions sweep before me
Of shapes unknown beneath the sun?
I shrink from unaccustomed glory,
I dread the myriad-voicéd strain;
Give me the unforgotten faces,
And let my lost ones speak again.
He will not chide my mortal yearning
Who is our Brother and our Friend,
In whose full life, divine and human,
The heavenly and the earthly blend.
Mine be the joy of soul-communion,
The sense of spiritual strength renewed,
The reverence for the pure and holy,
The dear delight of doing good.
No fitting ear is mine to listen
An endless anthem's rise and fall;
No curious eye is mine to measure
The pearl gate and the jasper wall.
For love must needs be more than knowledge;
What matter if I never know
Why Aldebaran's star is ruddy,
Or warmer Sirius white as snow!
Forgive my human words, O Father!
I go Thy larger truth to prove;
Thy mercy shall transcend my longing;
I seek but love, and Thou art Love!
I go to find my lost and mourned for
Safe in Thy sheltered goodness still,
And all that hope and faith foreshadow
Made perfect in Thy holy will!

See *John Greenleaf Whittier: A Biography* (1900) by Francis Henry Underwood, pp. 404-5.

Whittier has deleted the "ed" in "sheltered" and written in "ing", changing the word to "sheltering." This is how the line appears in his *Complete Works* (1894), pp. 463-4, and in other reprintings. The clipping is from *The Independent*, probably of 17 May 1883.

Emerson in the Lecture Room: Annie Fields's essay "Mr. Emerson in the Lecture Room," appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in June 1883. Ralph Waldo Emerson died on 27 April 1882. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4695. New transcription and notes. Parts of this letter were previously transcribed by Samuel T. Pickard, appearing in the 2nd volume of his *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* (p. 732). John B. Pickard then included the same text in *The Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*, V. 3, #1440.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

[*May 1883*]*

I am so struck with [*unrecognized words*] passion of A Mary Robinson in the Bronte book {—} "uncertainty of close that marks most early work" {—} it has given me a great lesson: No words can say how I like that little book. I hoard it like a miser and hate to finish it altogether{.}

Notes

May 1883: This fragment appears on the bottom half of a folded sheet. The text is penciled in green, and the handwriting is quite rough. These details may lead one to suspect that Fields has copied this passage from a Jewett letter, for while the style and ideas seem likely to be Jewett's, the handwriting may not be hers.

Jewett refers to Agnes Mary Robinson's (1857-1944) biography, *Emily Brontë* (1883). The speculative date of this fragment is based upon the publication date of the Robinson book and upon Fields having loaned a copy to Celia Thaxter in May of 1883. See Thaxter to Fields of 19 May.

Jewett has modified her quotation from Robinson; the original reads: "Had the poem ended here it would have been perfect, but it and many more of these lyrics have the uncertainty of close that usually marks early work" (p. 174).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Kittery Point

May 19th (83

My dearest Annie:

I got home last night tired enough & found Pinny* & Mary had been here [while *corrected*] I was away! Now wasn't that too too bad! I felt so sorry & disappointed; as you can imagine. I wrote to Pinny & begged her to try it again, for I expect to be here another week, & I hope, oh I hope she will, the dear thing!

In Portsmouth I met my poor cousin Albert* who is yet staggering under the loss of his glorious boy a year ago this month. And I told him what experience I had had & what I believe, & it was like the elixir of life to him — oh he was so grateful! He has hardly [begun *?*] to take any interest in life yet: for a month or more he could not hold a pen — he looks twenty years older instead of one — I have not seen him since his beautiful Arthur disappeared from his sight.

You sweet Annie, what a dear lovely little time I had with you! I am so glad of that little glimpse — it is such a pleasure to think of you so sweet & beautiful — I am awfully busy this [morning *?*] but had to stop & scratch a line just to say how dear you are & send my love — I read the Brontë book* all the way down: it is all you say — Do send me a line — I will write presently when I'm not in such a house hold drive.

Ever your lovingest

CT.

Notes

Pinny & Mary: Sarah Orne and Mary Rice Jewett.

cousin Albert: Albert Laighton (1829-1887) was the son of Captain John Laighton, who was

brother to Thaxter's father, Mark Laighton. Albert's only son was Austin Arthur (1875-1882). Presumably, Thaxter has told him about her current Spiritualist beliefs about life after death and the possibilities of communicating with the dead. See Norma Mandel, *Beyond the Garden Gate*, pp. 125-6, and Terry Heller, "Communing with the Dead: Celia Thaxter, John Greenleaf Whittier, Sarah Orne Jewett, Annie Adams Fields" in *Spirits and Photos*, Sarah Orne Jewett Press 2020, 2025.

Brontë book: Agnes Mary Robinson's (1857-1944) biography, *Emily Brontë* (1883).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Jessie McDermott

[*23 May 1883*]

Dear Miss M^{c}Dermott

I have looked at the picture which you drew for my little story in the June Wide Awake* with so much pleasure that I wish to thank you. I think it is charmingly done, and the doleful little girl in the chair is so

[*Page 2*]

like the Katy whom I 'made up' — that it seems quite wonderful.

Yours is really a most careful and satisfactory piece of work — but I wish I could say the same of my sketch which somehow missed being read in the proof, and which ought to have

[*Page 3*]

been revised by its guilty writer — However! — and I will do my part better next time. ——

Yours sincerely and with many thanks.

Sarah O. Jewett

South-Berwick Maine

23 May 1883

Notes

Wide Awake: Jewett's "Katy's Birthday" appeared in *Wide Awake,* XVII (June 1883), 36-40, and was collected in *Katy's Birthday by Sarah O. Jewett with Other Stories by Famous Authors* (Boston, 1883).

Richard Cary notes just one error in the story: "... on page 40 the word *in* was printed instead of *and."*

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. An envelope associated with this letter is addressed to McDermott C.O. D. Lothrop & Co. in Boston. It was forwarded to Morris Union Station, New York, C.O.Rev. Edwin Johnson. A readable cancellation on the back is dated in Boston on 24 May 1883.

Richard Cary included his transcription in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters.* New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Alexander Wilson Drake

South-Berwick

26 May 1883

Dear Mr. Drake

I dont know one word about the Boon Island legend except what Mrs. Celia Thaxter* has 'put down' in her poem. I am sure she can tell you and will tell you. Will not you write her that I said so?!

As for my own verses, I dont remember anything

[*Page 2*]

except Gosport Church* which would be of any use* to you — There was a story published long ago in my youth in Merry's Museum called The Orchard's Grandmother{.}* I never could tell [why *corrected*] I did not print it in Playdays for it was one of the best things I ever did: partly "made up" but having for its foundation

[*Page 3*]

the history of that old apple tree* which was the ancestor of most of the orchards hereabout. It stood on the main-road from Berwick to York and probably you know it well — and can tell more about it than I —

— I am truly grieved to hear of Mrs. Drake's illness, it must have been a long sorrowful winter

[*Page 4*]

to you both — I hoped that I should see you — but the month flew by, it seems to me, and so many pleasant things were crowded out — I have done a good deal of writing and have been much better than usual, though I had a horrid

time with rheumatism while the snow was going off — Thank you so much for your kind letter — and I am yours always sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Celia Thaxter: Key to Correspondents. Thaxter's poem, "The Watch of Boon Island," first appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (March 1872) and was collected in Jewett's posthumous collection, *Poems of Celia Thaxter* (1896).

any use: That this letter seems to concern the possible re-publication of a Jewett work for young readers would suggest that she is responding to Mr. Drake about a project related to *St. Nicholas*. If this scenario holds, then this may be correspondence leading to the publication of "Perseverence," a poem that appeared in *St. Nicholas* 10 (September 1883), with an illustration by Rose Mueller. The poem was reprinted in Mary Mapes Dodge, *Baby World: Stories, Rhymes, and Pictures for Little Folks*, New York: Century, 1884, pp. 258-9, (first two stanzas), and in *Verses 1916* as "A Four-Leaved Clover."

See Susan R. Gannon, Suzanne Rahn, Ruth Anne Thompson, *St. Nicholas and Mary Mapes Dodge: The Legacy of a Children's Magazine Editor, 1873-1905* (2004), pp. 55-7.

Gosport church: Jewett's "Gosport" poem almost certainly is "Star Island," which first appeared in *Harper's Magazine* 63 (September 1881).

The Orchard's Grandmother ... Playdays: "The Orchard's Grandmother" appeared in *Merry's Museum* 59 (May 1871). Jewett's collection of fiction for children, *Playdays*, appeared in 1878.

old apple tree: In *Ancient City of Gorgeana and Modern Town of York* (1874), George Alexander Emery tells the story of the old apple tree said to have been brought from England to York in about 1629:

> "The apple-tree flourishes well, and bears bountifully in this town; so much so, that Cider-Hill has long been a name applied to a section in the northerly portion of the town. Here is still standing an apple-tree which is said to have been brought from England, in a little tub or box, by one of the early settlers, more than two hundred and forty years ago. It has borne fruit up to the present time (1874); but the trunk is a mere upright hollow log, and only one limb retaining any vitality, it is not likely to survive many years longer" (p. 89).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Celia Thaxter

[*Late May 1883*]

Both the Pintoes have been to Portsmouth this afternoon and were caught in a shower so they only did an errand or two and went to the Havens* for an hour and came home again. Mary and I drove down in the big carriage with the General and John,*and it was a very good thing to do for I have been writing though it was humble prose — all the sweetbriar bushes were in bloom and they

[*Page 2*]

made me think of you — I have great hopes of this present story.* It acts as if it were going to be a long one though I meant it to be a dozen pages — I sent for the Emily Brontë book and I must finish the last half of it before I go to bed this night — How fine it is! (and* amazingly better than a Mary F. R's* story which has charming bits but no construction — It is conventional in its characters and dull though something about it makes you finish it and think

[*Page 3*]

of the people afterward — though you dont wish for another word — Good night dear — Was there any need of my sending back the copy of the poem for I wish I had it again — Miss Lawson was a behaving of herself all for nothing — if you please ladies. If there is a nice copy safe in these [friends *?*] hands she might be lent this mightn't she? Love to dear Lady Lodge —

Your own P. L.

[*Page 4*]

I know you two have a fire tonight, and Mistress Marygold sits in the blue chair. Did she speak yet of the Roman netting? and has she noticed slightly that there was a dog, and a yellow beautiful* handkerchief on the blue chair, or new curtains — or anything! or brass candlesticks and sich ... I hope "B'r Tarrykin Thaxter"* aint saying nothing to make [them *?*] all unhappy

about poor Karl's* [disappointments *?*] — dear Sandpiper!

Notes

Late May 1883: This date is based upon the information that at this time, Jewett, Thaxter and Fields were reading Mary Robinson's new biography of Emily Brontë. See notes below.

As the information from the Houghton Library indicates, this letter has been identified as addressed to Louise I. Guiney and Mary Greenwood Lodge. Key to Correspondents. A note with the manuscript asserts that these were the recipients. However, that is virtually impossible. Lodge died in 1889, and though Jewett was acquainted with Guiney through Annie Fields before 1889, Jewett's earliest known letter to Guiney is dated in 1891, and that letter lacks many features of this one, especially the nicknames (Pinny Lawson for Jewett, Marigold for Lodge, Sandpiper for Thaxter) that were used within this small group of intimate friends, and not with Guiney.

Havens: Probably this is the family of Edith Bell Haven Doe. Her parents lived in Portsmouth, NH. Key to Correspondents.

Mary ... the General and John: Mary Rice Jewett and John Tucker. Key to Correspondents. Presumably, the General is their horse. This leaves the opening reference to the two Pintoes unexplained. Perhaps it is connected in some way with Jewett's nickname, Pinny. Perhaps there were two pinto horses to their carriage, though only one horse is named in the letter. Perhaps the Jewett sisters wore spotted clothing.

story: Jewett's longest story to appear later in 1883 was "An Only Son," in the November *Atlantic Monthly*.

(and: It is not clear that the open parenthesis was written by Jewett. It lacks a closing.

Brontë book: Jewett refers to Agnes Mary Frances Robinson's (1857-1944) biography, *Emily Brontë* (1883). The speculative date of this letter is based upon the publication date of the Robinson book and upon Fields having loaned a copy to Celia Thaxter in May of 1883. See Thaxter to Fields of 19 May. Robinson, who published under several names, wrote fiction as well as biography. Her novel, *Arden*, also appeared in 1883.

<u>*beautiful*</u>: Jewett has underlined this word 3 times.

Karl's: Karl Thaxter was Celia Thaxter's disabled eldest son. Key to Correspondents. At this time, he was working on various inventions, many of which were unsuccessful.

Presumably "B'r Tarrykin Thaxter" is another member of the Thaxter household at Kittery, most likely her husband, Levi Thaxter, or one of her brothers, Cedric and Oscar, or one of her other two sons, John and Roland. Key to Correspondents.

One may wonder whether Jewett obliquely alludes to "Brer Tarrypin," a turtle in the Joel Chandler Harris tale "Mr. Fox Tackles Old Man Tarrypin."

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Box: 6 Identifier: MS Am 1743, (259), Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence II. Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett. Louise Imogen, 1861-1920, recipient 1 letter; [n.d.].

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Wednesday evening

[*May 1883*]*

Wednesday evening

Dear darling I do miss you dreadfully, but Pinny is going to be good (though you forgot to tell her to be!) It seems so strange and lonely to be without you after all this dear time we have been together. ~~but~~ I daresay I shall get into my old tracks after a day or two = it has been chilly and I have felt the change in the air a good deal, but I am going to try gardening to morrow if the weather

[*Page 2*]

is right. I have been driving all afternoon with Mary* and we stayed ever so long down in the woods by the river where it is sheltered from the wind and had a beautiful time. It was low tide and the salt grass was very fragrant on one side to match the pines on the other and one pee wee chirped a lonesome note in

[*Page 3*]

the bushes as [if *corrected*] she were named Pinny and had left a Fuffy in some far Boston — — (I haven't even unpacked my boxes yet, except to hunt for the plums)* but there is no great hurry.

— Your dearest note has come and I was <u>so</u> glad to get it and Sandpiper's* was a dear one

too — I mean to go down with Mary very soon. Wasn't it funny about the sparrows

[*Page 4*]

with their crops full?

— I have been looking over the Atlantic and liking it very much — only I think it was an outrage to have filled so much space in three numbers with Daisy Miller's Dramatization —* I dont see how Mr. James could bear to waste his time over it — Oh, dear Fuff, the cheque for your article will not come until the first day of June, so dont be looking for it in vain

[*Up the right margin and then across the top margin of page 1*]

before that time. Did you ever remember the little candle sticks you bought in Paris for the house in Manchester? I am

[*Up the right margin and then across the top margin of page 2*]

using mine — and it is so nice. Dont you think the Emerson article looks well? I was thinking about

[*Up the right margin and then across the top margin of page 13*]

there being any trouble about your doing it, but I think there couldn't be, for they could use it in a book if

[*Up the right margin and then across the top margin of page 4*]

they like just as well as ever. [*deleted words*] I should never have a fear of it — Pin always said so — Dear love good night and God bless you.

Your own Pin.

Notes

1883: The date 1882 is penciled in the upper right of page 1 in another hand. However, that is not possible, because the letter references events of 1883. See notes below.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett.

plums): The parenthesis marks appear to have been added in pencil by another hand.

Sandpiper's: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

Daisy Miller's Dramatization: *Daisy Miller: A Comedy in Three Acts* by Henry James appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in April, May and June of 1883.

Emerson article: Annie Fields's memoir, "Mr. Emerson in the Lecture Room," appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*, June 1883, pp. 818-32. This appears to be the same article Jewett first refers to earlier in the letter.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick

27 May

[*1883*]*

My dear friend

I was more than glad to get your letter for I had been wishing to hear from you and wishing to write to you, but I have found so many things to do since I came home that you have no need to fear that I write too much —

If you please, gardening is taking up a great deal of my time, and besides that

[*Page 2*]

I have too long neglected my self-imposed duties as inspector of the York and Barvick* roads and I have had no end of driving to attend to! Who do you suppose came down from Boston on Saturday and spent Sunday with me? Dear A. F.* — for I was moved by a sudden impulse Saturday morning and sent off a telegram, and afterward thought it would be no use for I manufactured no end of reasons why she could not come. But presently came

[*Page 3*]

the answer and it was "Thank you, yes!" at which I was ready to fly with joy. She looked so tired and so white when she came, but I really think the change and a good drive through the woods yesterday did her a great deal of good and sent her home feeling better today. It is cruel to let her stay alone — and I never mean to be away when I can help it, but this is one of the times when I cannot and indeed it is very

[*Page 4*]

pleasant to be here, as much as I miss her — Your letter came just after she did so we both enjoyed it, and I expect a great deal of good luck from the four-leaved clovers. I sought diligently for one to retaliate with, but though I am usually fortunate, there was not one to be seen —

I have not seen the story* you speak of though the Littells are in a nice brown heap together waiting to be read one evening very soon.

[*Page 5*]

I must tell you how much I have been enjoying your Dr. Singletary* — The description of [him *?*] reminds me so much of my father that I read it again and again, and it is all very beautiful. Those two volumes are such a storehouse of good things —

When is the yearly meeting of Friends* at Portland? I am not going to be disagreeable and to extort a hindering and constraining promise from

[*Page 6*]

you, but I do wish to know the time so that I may hide in ambush and lie in wait for you as you go and come! Unless you must say that it will be impossible, and you had better not!

Goodbye — I have not told you how much I like the poem in the Independent,* or a great deal else, for that matter.

Yours always lovingly

Sarah —

Notes

1883: Richard Cary assigned this date. This is a reasonable inference given that Whittier, Jewett, Annie Fields, and Celia Thaxter soon began to exchange enthusiastic responses to *The Wizard's Son*, then being serialized in *Littell's*. See notes below.

Barvick: A local pronunciation of Berwick. Cary writes:

> "One curious thing is the pronunciation of the name of the town: Berwick by the elder people has always been called *Barvik,* after the fashion of Danes and Northmen; never *Berrik,* as the word has so long been pronounced in modern England." (Sarah Orne Jewett, "Looking back on Girlhood," *Youth's Companion,* LXV [January 7, 1892], 5.) See also Miss Jewett's "The Old Town of Berwick," *New England Magazine,* x (July 1894).

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

Littells: Cary says this monthly magazine published in Boston reprinted literature and essays mainly from British magazines.

In his letter to Fields of 10 May 1882, Whittier had recommended *The Wizard's Son* (1884) by popular Scottish author Margaret Oliphant (1828-1897). The novel was serialized in *Macmillan's Magazine*, November 1882 through March 1884 (v. 47-9).

The novel also was serialized in the United States in *Littell's Living Age*, 158-160 April 1883 - March, 1884, where Jewett, Fields and Whittier read it

Singletary: Whittier's "My Summer With Dr. Singletary" first appeared in the *National Era* in 1851-1852. It was collected in several places. Cary points out that Jewett owned *The Prose Works of John Greenleaf Whittier* (Boston, 1865, 1882), which contained this piece.

Friends: Cary notes that Whittier attended the 1883 meeting, June 8-13.

Independent: Whittier's "What the Traveller Said at Sunset" appeared in the *Independent* of 17 May 1883). It was collected in *The Bay of Seven Islands, and Other Poems* (1883).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA. A previous transcription by Richard Cary appears in "'Yours Always Lovingly': Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 107 (1971): 412-50. New transcription and notes.

Ellen Frances Mason to Sarah Orne Jewett

Paris

May 28

[1883]*

Dear Sarah,

Only a line to enclose my photograph, and to thank you for understanding about Socrates.* I am so grieved to find that you are not

[*Page 2*]

better. It seems hard that when one has such gifts one should be denied the power of using

them, but who can say what greater gift we may not unconsciously be using!

We are impatiently awaiting the moment for sailing. I do not know now

[*Page 3*]

how I could possibly have [waited *corrected from* waiting] longer, as we at first intended. At present we are plunged in the whirl of Paris shopping, and most distracting it is — painful indeed, as I cannot write you more than this little word just to send my love & my picture. We shall be

[*Page 4*]

sure to meet this summer.

Yrs afft

Ellen F. Mason

I send some lines w^{ch} I have copied for you, thinking you w^{ld} like them. They were written for a friend of ours — a most [saintly *?*] person — Fanny Alexander —*

Notes

1883: Dating this letter depends upon having correctly dated Mason to Jewett of 25 March 1883. Clearly this letter follows upon that one.

Socrates: See Mason to Jewett of 25 March 1883. There Mason discusses the recent publication of *A Day in Athens with Socrates; translations from the Protagoras and the Republic of Plato* (1883).

Fanny Alexander: Frances / Fanny "Francesca" Alexander (1837-1917). See Lucia Gray Swett Alexander in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Mason, Ellen Francis, 1846-1930. 4 letters; [1900 & n.d.]. bMS Am 1743 (148). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 97, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Oak Knoll 5th Mo, 29 [*1883*]*

My dear friend,

Thy welcome letter came last night. I am afraid that, under the circumstances, it cost thee something to write it. Much as I prize a word from thee, I value the writer so much

[*Page 2*]

more that it would pain me to think thy kind heart prompted thee to write, when, even with a friend, silence seems best. I can well understand thy feeling as regards moving from the city [home *or* house *?*] to Manchester,* but I trust it will prove the right thing

[*Page 3*]

after all. The dear Lord who has so greatly blest thee in the past will not leave thee nor forsake thee, there; and I trust thee will be able to call thy chamber looking over the sea to the sunrise, like that of the Pilgrim, by the blessed name of Peace!*

I am not to lose thy visit to Oak Knoll. I [will *?*] go to N.H. until early in July, & return

[*Page 4*]

by the middle of August{.} I shall be only too glad to see {thee} & Sarah if she is with thee ~~there~~ here. Did n't you both promise to run up to Lake Asquam while I am there?

My cousin Gertrude Cartland* will be there & I should like thee {to} know her. The [extract *?*] from the new [writer greeted *?*] by thee, hints indeed at the great secret of peace & happiness. I am reading with ever fresh interest the installment of "The Wizard's Son" in Littell. Shall I send the Jane

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

Carlyle books* to Boston or Manchester? The Lord bless thee dearest friend, & give thee His peace which is better than ours. Affectly

John G Whittier

Notes

1883: The Huntington Archive assigned this year to this letter. Almost certainly this is correct, as Whittier reports reading Margaret Oliphant's *The Wizard's Son*, which was serialized in the U.S. during the spring of 1883. See notes below.

Penciled marks on this manuscript include an archive number at the bottom left of page 1, and an "x" in the left margin of page 3, next to the line "looking over the sea."

Manchester: On 24 April 1883, Fields marked the second anniversary of her husband's death. Key to Correspondents. As she had traveled in Europe with Jewett in the summer of 1882, it has been 2 years since Fields summered at the home in Manchester-by-the-Sea that had been the couple's retreat from Boston.

blessed name of Peace: In John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress, Part 1*, Christian stops for a night in a shelter provided by the Lord of the Hill and sleeps in a bedchamber called Peace (p. 131).

Gertrude Cartland: Richard Cary says that Joseph Cartland (1810-1898) and Whittier's cousin Gertrude Cartland (1822-1911) accompanied Whittier on his summer vacations in Maine and New Hampshire for five decades, and Whittier lived in their home at Newburyport, Massachusetts most of his last fifteen winters.

Wizard's Son: Margaret Oliphant (1828-1897) was the popular Scottish author of *The Wizard's Son* (1884). The novel was serialized in *Macmillan's Magazine*, November 1882 through March 1884 (v. 47-9).

The novel also was serialized in the United States in *Littell's Living Age*, 158-160 April 1883 - March, 1884.

Jane Carlyle books: James Anthony Froude, editor, *Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle, Prepared for Publication by Thomas Carlyle* (New York, 1883), 2 vols. Richard Cary notes that the "packet may also have contained Thomas Carlyle's *Reminiscences*, edited by Froude (New York, 1881)."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4696.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Tuesday noon

[*1883-1886*]*

Dear darling Fuffs —

This little note came from dear C.T.* this morning and I will send it right to you — Do tell me what she says — I am going over to Exeter this afternoon to see

[*Page 2*]

my grandfather and perhaps stay until evening — not over night — Poor little Fuff being lonely at Nahant! — but it shall be ever so long before you shall be alone again — — I was perfectly

[*Page 3*]

delighted you could go to the Houghtons* and I am sure they were — it was a sweet kindness of T.L. —

I had a distracted little note from Cora* this morning saying that she was called back to town { — } her mother was dangerous

[*Page 4*]

ill again — Kiss dear Rogery* on the top of his smooth head for me — and Kiss Miss Fuffy Fields in the looking glass and play it was Pin ! Day after tomorrow I shall have you !!

[*Manuscript breaks off. No signature*]

Notes

1883-1886: This letter almost certainly was composed no earlier than 1883, after Jewett and Fields returned from their first trip to Europe but before January of 1887, when Jewett's grandfather, Dr. William Perry, died. I have placed it in 1883, only because that is the earliest probable composition date.

C.T.: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

Houghtons: Henry Oscar Houghton. Key to Correspondents.

Cora: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Rogery: Probably, this is Jewett's dog, Roger, staying with Fields at this time. See "Sarah Orne Jewett's Dog" (1889) for a portrait of Roger. Roger came to the Jewett household in 1881 and died in 1889. See Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett, 21 June 1889.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Adams Fields to Sarah Orne Jewett

Thursday Evening - 9 ^{o}'clk

[*Early June 1883*]*

Dear Sarah:

Aldrich and Lilian* have just gone — he staying later than she for [Bugbee *?*]* came and called her home about the house — He said there never was anything so stupid as the last Harper* — it was trash from beginning to end — Neither did he refer to anything else except your dear story* which he thinks the best thing you have ever done and says very wisely that you ought to gather yourself now for a story in at least six numbers wh. could make a book.

It might be very popular and a first rate thing for you —

[*Page 2*]

He was very kind and sweet and I dare say it is much better for me than if he took any more notice* of what I write or do — I hear alas! through Mr. Beal* a rumor that Mr. Fairchild* is not successful financially. How hard it will be for her with that large band of children already accustomed to luxury — and — her own relations to society?* She does not care for luxury herself but under existing circumstances it will be very hard if he does not

[*Page 3*]

retrieve himself. How much better it would have been to content themselves under the safe wing of S.D.W. and Co —

I write away on my poor little Charity book and I saw Mr. Garrison* today about the [form *?*]. It is about finished but I dread the days when I have not even that —

I have resigned on the Authors "Committee" and Mifs [Graves *?*]* has returned to the country — There was no money to pay her and they expected the work to be done for nothing — so they may get it finished as they can —

[*Page 4*]

Your "Wide Awake" came tonight dear full of pretty things — your story* especially. [Many thanks *?*] — also the letter{.} I will send the autograph of E.S.P.*

[Farquhar *corrected*] Bros.*

19 Market St.

is the address —

I will write to Cupples* for us both perhaps and say we can't. Maybe it will do as well —

Your

A.F.

Notes

Early June 1883: This date is supported by two items mentioned in the text. Fields's book *How to Help the Poor* was in print by September 1883. Jewett's only 1883 story in *Wide Awake* appeared in the June issue.

This letter appears to have been written in pencil.

Several times in this letter, Fields writes "a" for "and." I have changed these to "and" without comment.

Aldrich and Lilian: Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

Bugbee: While this transcription is difficult, Bugbee is mentioned in one other known, but undated letter from Jewett to Lilian Aldrich. Probably this is the author James McKellar Bugbee (1837-1913), who, according to Ferris Greenslet's biography of Thomas Bailey Aldrich, was an early and lifelong friend of Aldrich.

Harper: Aldrich probably speaks of the June 1883 issue of a rival to *Atlantic Monthly*. Jewett published two poems in *Harper's* in 1883. Fields published four poems there in 1882, and another in September 1883. The reasons for Aldrich's negative view are not yet known.

your dear story: If the dating of this letter is correct, Aldrich probably refers to Jewett's "A Landless Farmer," a longer story that appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*, where Aldrich was editor, in two installments. 18 months later, Jewett's *A Marsh Island* (1885) began with the first of six parts in *Atlantic*.

notice: Someone has penciled a line in the left margin next to this sentence.

Mr. Beal: Fields's brother-in-law, James Henry Beal. See Annie Adams Fields in Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Fairchild: For Charles Fairchild and his family, see Sally Fairchild in Key to Correspondents. Fairchild had worked for S. D. Warren & Co., a paper mill, until 1880. The company was owned by Samuel Dennis Warren. For information about his decision to leave, see *The Mount Vernon Street Warrens* (1913). At

the time of this letter, the Fairchilds had at least seven children.

society: This sentence contains a number of marks that look like intentional dashes, so I have included them despite their oddity. The sentence appears to end with a question mark, but this is not certain.

Charity book ... Mr. Garrison: Fields's *How to Help the Poor* appeared in 1883. Francis Jackson Garrison supervised manufacturing orders at Houghton Mifflin. Key to Correspondents.

Authors "Committee": No information about this committee or Miss Graves has yet been located.

your story: Jewett's only story in *Wide Awake* in 1883 was "Katy's Birthday," in the June issue.

E.S.P.: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward. Key to Correspondents.

Farquhar Bros: R. & J. Farquhar Company of Boston, MA sold seeds and gardening supplies by mail order.

Cupples: This may be Cupples, Upham and Co. a 19th-century Boston publisher.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection MWWC0196_02_00_005_01.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Monday [4 *written over* 3] th June

[*1883*]*

My dearest Fuffy

It is so good to get your letter and as for thy friend* it is very beautiful. I do wish he would tell me when the yearly meeting of Friends at Portland is! I wrote him again to find out, only telling him that I wished to do something else the other week. I daresay I shall hear tomorrow — This has been

[*Page 2*]

a writing day — and I am going to stop for awhile, for it is no use going [on *written over something*] until I have had a run-off and can start on a new track. I must say that nothing is so delightful as the garden. (If the Manchester seeds that I planted have come up as well as these here, you must have a great plantation! (I dont believe a single nasturtium out of the two ounces missed fire — Mary* gets)(

[*Manuscript breaks off — no signature.*]

[*up the left margin of page 1*]

I found a four leaved clover to send thy friend.

Notes

1883: Between the time Jewett and Fields adopted the "Fuffy" nickname and the death of Whittier in 1892, 4 June fell on Monday in 1883 and 1888. In a letter to J. G. Whittier of 27 May 1883, Jewett asks Whittier about the date of the "yearly meeting of the Friends at Portland," as she reports doing in this letter. Therefore 1883 seems the more likely date for this fragment.

Parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled by Fields.

Fuffy: Nickname for Annie Adams Fields. Fields has deleted "Fuffy."

thy friend: Fields has inserted after "friend": "(Whittier", meaning John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

[*June 5, 1883*]*

[I shall be with you *in pencil, in another hand, at the top center*]

be with you tomorrow — your dear birthday.* How I am looking forward to Thursday evening! — I don't care whether there is starlight or a fog — Yes dear, I will bring the last sketch* and give it its last touches if you think I had better spend any more time on it — I am tired of writing things — I want now to paint things and drive things — and kiss things! — and yet I have been thinking all day what a lovely sketch it would be

[*Page 2*]

to tell the story of the day we went to Morwenstow — with bits of Lorna Doone & the Vicar* intertwined with the narrative! —*

I have been reading Carlyle's Reminiscences — the Jane Welsh Carlyle* as you may suppose. How could people have made such a fuss about it! It seems to grow more and more simple and beautiful and human; and Carlyle is like a "great stone face"* on a mountain top. — good night, and God bless you dear love. Yours, always Pin

Notes

1883: This date is added in pencil, top right of page 1. Probably it is correct or at least close. Internal evidence indicates the letter was composed after Jewett and Fields returned from their 1882 trip to Europe.

birthday: Annie Adams Fields was born on 6 June 1834. In 1883, 6 June fell on a Wednesday.

last sketch: Jewett published at least eight stories and essays between August and December of 1883.

Morwenstow — with bits of Lorna Doone & the Vicar: Wikipedia says: "Morwenstow is the most northerly parish in Cornwall…. Morwenstow is the one-time home of the eccentric vicar and poet Robert Stephen Hawker (1803–1875), the writer of Cornwall's anthem Trelawny." Jewett recounts her visit to this village in her letter of 2 July 1882, writing her sister Mary about her travels with Mrs. Fields in England.

"*Lorna Doone: A Romance of Exmoor* is a novel by English author Richard Doddridge Blackmore [1825-1900], published in 1869."

The Vicar of Wakefield (1766) is a novel by the Irish writer Oliver Goldsmith (1728–1774). Whether Jewett refers to the novel as well as to Vicar Hawker is uncertain.

Jewett and Fields visited Morwenstow at the beginning of July 1882.

narrative!: Whether Jewett has placed an exclamation point here is uncertain. The mark is ambiguous.

Carlyle's Reminiscences — the Jane Welsh Carlyle: It appears Jewett refers to James Anthony Froude, editor, *Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle, Prepared for Publication by Thomas Carlyle* (New York, 1883), 2 vols. The book received negative commentary because of its frank portrayal of the Carlyles' troubled marriage.

"great stone face": Jewett compares Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881) to the Old Man of the Mountain, also called the Great Stone Face, "a series of five granite cliff ledges on Cannon Mountain in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, United States, that appeared to be the jagged profile of a face when viewed from the north." This formation collapsed in 2003.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Fields Transcription

The following transcription of the above letter appears in Annie Fields, *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911), p. 17.

[1883]

I shall be with you tomorrow. your dear birthday. How I am looking forward to Thursday evening. I don't care whether there is starlight or a fog. Yes, dear, I will bring the last sketch and give it its last touches if you think I had better spend any more time on it. I am tired of writing things. I want now to paint things and drive things, and *kiss* things, and yet I have been thinking all day what a lovely sketch it would be to tell the story of the day we went to Morwenstow, with bits of "Lorna Doone" and "The Vicar" intertwined with the narrative.

I have been reading Carlyle's Reminiscences — the Jane Welsh Carlyle, as you may suppose . How could people have made such a fuss about it. It seems to grow more and more simple and beautiful and human, and Carlyle is like a "great stone face" on a mountain top. Good night, and God bless you, dear love.

Annie Adams Fields to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*June 1883*]*

My darling — all on this rainy Thursday instead of tomorrow are the twins and Mrs Whitman and Alice and Mary* to be here at lunch. How I wish for you!

Your little note came in last night with a letter from Georgina Hogarth* enclosing one for you wh. I send with this.

It was so strange and good that you would have felt as you did about the latter lines in the first half of

[*Page 2*]

Chrysalides!* I too had my suspicions in that direction — There was something much larger there, and something which I do not seem to find at all satisfactorily in the lines was in my mind to say further, so I believe I shall cut the passage quite out. Whatever can be spared in a poem certainly, should be omitted{.} But wasn't it interesting

[*Page 3*]

that ^you and^ I had thought it together.

A note from Mifs [*Unrecognized name*] says that Mr. Whittier* has already gone to the mountains. I wish I knew his address — for now is the time to write him.

Ever and ever yours

A.F.

Notes

1883: This date is based upon Fields reporting discussion of her poem, "Chrysalides," presumably before its publication in September 1883.

twins and Mrs Whitman and Alice and Mary: The twins probably were the sisters, but not twins: Helen Olcott Choate Bell and Miriam Foster Choate Pratt. The others are Sarah Wyman Whitman and, probably, Alice Greenwood Howe and Mary Greenwood Lodge. Key to Correspondents.

Georgina Hogarth: Georgina Hogarth, (1827-1917), "the sister-in-law, housekeeper, and adviser of English novelist Charles Dickens and the editor of two volumes of his collected letters after his death." Wikipedia.

Chrysalides: Fields's poem "Chrysalides" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in September 1883. Fields collected the poem virtually unchanged in *The Singing Shepherd* (1895).

Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Additional Correspondence, 100 letters from Annie Adams Fields, bMS Am 1743.1 Box 1, Item 33.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Thursday afternoon

[*Summer 1883-1886*]*

Dearest Fuff

I thought you were in Boston yesterday! I am afraid you were very hot, for "it" was high above ninety here and only excelled in discomfort by the celebrated Saturday — But this morning there was a delicious [north *corrected, possibly from* east] wind with a touch of east in it and I have been in the garden picking currants

[*Page 2*]

all the morning long and I had a beautiful time! — Few persons know that it is very pretty to sit on the ground under a tall currant bush and see the colours of it against the blue sky. ⸢ No Pinny not to get cold; she mostly was throned on a little box!)((Mary* has gone down to York to see Hattie Denny* (Poor Uncle William*

[*Page 3*]

insists again that he wishes to go down — and I told Mary that now was her chance to have a day and that he could report and probably that would be the last of the plan. He wishes to hire a house & take his Hannah & John & Mary) (—— and horses! It is something to talk about at all events.) (I do not hear from Mifs Mitchell*

[*Page 4*]

but she promised to write me as soon as she knew anything to write. Dear Fuff I send you ~~the~~ "a five", as Mrs. Perkings* says, with many thanks —— I have got a new book of charming essays by R. L. Stevenson{.}* Mrs. Whitman* spoke of an essay on Villon in it — when we were talking of that [*deleted letters*] wise one in the Review.*

I will bring it when I come.

your own S.O.J.)

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

Dear Fuff!

Notes

Summer 1883-1886: The precise date of this letter is unknown, but it must have been composed no earlier than the summer of 1883, and while Jewett's Uncle William — who died in August 1887 — remained in good enough health to contemplate a move to York.

Her reference to *Familiar Studies of Men and Books* as a new book, would seem to place the date closer to 1883.

Though I have placed the letter in 1883, it may well be from 1-3 years later.

Parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled by Fields.

Fuff: Annie Adams Fields.

Pinny: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett.

Hattie Denny: Hattie Denny, sister of Augusta Maria Denny Tyler. Key to Correspondents.

Uncle William: William Durham Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Hannah & John: Hannah Driscoll and John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

Mifs Mitchell: This person has not yet been identified. Among Fields's acquaintances was the American astronomer at Vassar College, Maria Mitchell (1818-1889).

Mrs. Perkings: Mrs. Perkings is Catherine (Mrs. Richard) Perkins, Fields's next-door neighbor at 146 Charles Street. An anonymous researcher has provided this information about the family.

Richard Perkins (ca. 1805–6 Dec 1886). In the 1860 census, he and Catherine, his wife, and his brother, Abijah Crane Perkins (23 December 1802-10 August 1884), already lived next door to Annie and James T. Fields. The men were retired merchants at that time. Richard and Catherine P. Dow (ca. 1828 -29 April 1893) married in Boston on 2 June 1857.

Richard and Abijah's parents were William and Nabby Butler Crane Perkins. Catherine's father was Jones Dow of Lowell, MA.

In a journal entry of 22 September 1866, Fields describes him as a successful businessman possessed of a "dull kindliness."

Mrs. Perkings is mentioned in a letter to Fields of November/December 1886, as a country woman despite her urban residence.

What she means by "a five" is uncertain, but she may refer to a five dollar bill.

R. L. Stevenson: Scottish author, Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894). His essay "François Villon, Student, Poet, Housebreaker" (1877) was collected in *Familiar Studies of Men and Books* (1882).

François Villon (1431- c. 1463) was a French poet. Wikipedia.

Mrs. Whitman: Sarah Wyman Whitman. Key to Correspondents.

in the Review: Perhaps the more likely Stevenson essay is "The Morality of the Profession of Letters," *Fortnightly Review* ns 157 (April 1881). Though it was published too early to be current at the probable time of this letter, Whitman still may have spoken of it, and the Jewett circle is known to have read the *Fortnightly*.

Stevenson published two other likely essays in *The Contemporary Review* that almost certainly appeared too late for the probable date of this letter:

"On Some Technical Elements of Style in Literature," *Contemporary Review* 47 (April 1885);

"The Day After Tomorrow," *The Contemporary Review* 51 (April 1887).

See Robert Louis Stevenson.org.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Thursday afternoon

[*June 1883*]*

This is a lazy loitering Pinny Lawson who came over to the old house directly after dinner to write as fast as she could, but she got hold of the box of her dear T.L's* letters and has been reading one more and one more until a great piece of the afternoon is gone. Oh my dear darling I had forgotten that we loved each other so much a year ago — for it all seems so ~~new~~ new* to me every day — There is so much for us to remember already — But a

[*Page 2*]

year ago last winter seems a great way off for we have lived so much since.

= I have had a hard time of worry and hard work since you went away on Monday. I wish I could be idle all the rest of June, that is not feel forced to do things. But I suppose it cannot be and the only thing possible in a busy life is to rest <u>in</u> ones work since one cannot rest <u>from</u> it. I think a good deal about the long

[*Page 3*]

story* but it has not really taken hold of me yet. I do get so impatient with myself dear Fuffy. I am always straying off on wrong roads and I am so wicked about things. This is one of the times when I think despairingly about my faults and see little chance of their ever being mended. — But Fuffy to have patience with Pin and please to love her! —

(I have been reading Under the Olive* a good deal in this last day or two and I cant begin to tell you how beautiful

[*Page 4*]

it is to me — and how helpful.

I long to hear you read from it again. And when I think it was my dear little Fuffy who wrote it, it seems quite amazing — It is like remembering that I have dared to talk nonsense and hug and play generally with something that turned itself into a whole world full of thoughts and sights and beautiful things — Fuffy and this poet are a funny pair to live in the same skin you know, ladies! Oh Pinny to go to work! An idle and thriftless Pinny to whom the rest of the Lawsons are industrious.)*

[*No signature*]

Notes

June 1883: The date June 1882 is penciled in the upper right of page 1 in another hand. However, this cannot be correct, as Jewett and Fields were together in Europe in that month. Jewett dating their friendship from about 18 months earlier suggests that 1883 is the correct composition date.

new: Both the deleted word and its apparent substitute are blotted.

industrious.): The parenthesis that begins on p. 3 and ends here is penciled by another hand.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich

Thursday night [*June 1883*]

My dear Lilian

It was a very great pleasure to get your little letter tonight, for I have been thinking about you so much and wishing that I could see you. I have thought every morning that I would write you before the day was done, but I am growing very bad

[*Page 2*]

about letters! —— I wish that I knew when I could go to Lynn, but I am sure that it cannot be for two or three weeks yet. There are a good many reasons for being here just now, and I know that I shall have to go away by and by when the very hot weather comes,

[*Page 3*]

so I am making the most of this delightful June ^in Berwick^ — have been gardening and writing and doing all sorts of things and we have been giving our minds and hearts to various visitors — two young cousins of mine are here just now chattering like magpies up-stairs —— I keep thinking about Manchester you may be sure, and of that beautiful

[*Page 4*]

hilltop — where poor Mrs. Fields* is lonelier and sadder than anybody can guess. I shall go back there by and by, and then I shall be sure to see you. You and his Grace* are going there soon, aren't you? I think that is something she cares a <u>great deal</u> about, and she wrote me in such joy because his Grace liked the poem.* She sent it to me in a letter and I was going to tell you about it — it was

[*Page 5*]

so lovely — and then I found you knew ——

It was a most dear Duchess who got the spoon! and I love it already. Only today I was thinking about the lost one — — I wish I could see you instead of trying to write a letter to you, but we will have a blessed long gossip one day before

[*Page 6*]

long. Do give my love to Mrs. Aldrich,* and to all the household. Has Tal* dared to grow any more? and how is the Dearest love? Tell

Charley I miss having him for an opposite neighbor.

Yours affectionately

Miss Martinot*

(Now of the Bijou T.C.)*

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

If you ever go to McCarthy's* will you get me one of those china trays with the little fences round them that we bought at Leonards? He must have some left!

Notes

June 1883: This speculative date is supported by a little evidence. Jewett's reference to Fields's loneliness suggests that she writes relatively soon after the death of James T. Fields in April 1881. Other letters indicate that Jewett did spend most of June 1883 in South Berwick or visiting nearby. The apparent reference to Sadie Martinot performing in Boston corresponds with her early July 1883 appearances at the Bijou (see below).

One problem with this date is that Martinot probably appeared several more times in Boston during the later 1880s, as well as at the Bijou Theatre in New York.

his Grace: The Aldriches were affectionately known among their friends as the Duke and Duchess of Ponkapog. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

the poem: If this letter is from June 1883, then Jewett may refer to Fields's poem, "The Folding," which appeared in *Harper's Magazine* in June 1883 and was collected in *The Singing Shepherd* (1895).

Mrs. Aldrich: Thomas Bailey Aldrich's mother was Sarah Abba/Abra Bailey (1814-1896); she married Elias Taft Aldrich (1807-1850).

Tal: The Aldriches' had twins born in 1868: Charles and Talbot.

Miss Martinot: Sadie Martinot was a Jewett nickname with the Aldriches, after the American actress and singer, Sarah/Sadie Martinot. Key to Correspondents.

Bijou T.C.: The transcription of the initials is uncertain; perhaps she means Theatre Company? Or perhaps it should read O.C. for Opera Company. There was a Bijou theater in Boston after 1882 and in New York after 1878.

According to the *Historical Review of the Boston Bijou Theatre*, Sadie Martinot appeared in the casts of two Collier's Standard Opera Company Productions at the Boston Bijou in 1883, *Patience* by Gilbert and Sullivan, July 2-7, and *The Mascot* by Edmond Audrain, July 9-13.

McCarthy's ... Leonards: J. C. McCarthy was a department store at the corner of Tremont and West Streets, Boston. Leonards is more difficult to identify. There was a Leonard's Gallery in Boston in the 1880s, which appears to have specialized in fine art, but may have sold craft items as well. More likely, Leonard's was a store not in Boston, but nearer another location, such as the area of Beverly and Manchester-by-Sea, where the Aldriches and Annie Fields spent their summers.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Kittery Point, June 9th

[*1883*]*

Dearest & dearest:

I promised to come over here for a day or two when the boat should begin, but finding it did not propose to start on its usual daily trips till the 18th, I rushed over yesterday & am hoping to go back to Shoals tomorrow, Sunday. The steam tug Clara [Bateman *?*]* came out yesterday a.m. at 3 o'clock if you please, towing the floating wharf to its place of mooring, so I returned to Ports. with her at six oclock — & came over the ferry at 8 oclock to Kittery Point. Found my farmer boy* had gone to Boston, the rest of the family in statu quo. & glad on the whole to see me. It is no less than divinely beautiful here too, all blossoms & fragrance & deeps of green grass & fresh leaves, lilacs just coming on — think how much later than ^with^ you.

2

But to me there is nothing like the Shoals — I watch the sky anxiously lest fog or storm prevent the Pinafore from coming into Brave boat harbor* for me tomorrow. I am sure the weather

is going to do some thing untoward. Yesterday & today have been so heavenly beautiful — and I am dying to get back to my little garden & to Karl, whom I did not like to leave even for one night — All this before I begin to thank you for your dear letter & the Wizard's Son!* I am so grateful dear, for both. Let me know how much I [owe *corrected*] you in filthy lucre, please — I think I can get the other Nos. as they come along, in Ports. It is immensely interesting. I brought it with me & read in the various steam tugs on my way yesterday.

[*manuscript breaks off. No signature*.]

Notes

1883: June 9 fell on Saturday in 1883. And see notes below.

Clara Bateman: Though this transcription is uncertain, there was a steam tug *Clara Bateman* operating out of Portsmouth, NH in the 1880s.

farmer boy: Thaxter refers to her middle son, John. Later in the letter, she mentions her disabled oldest son, Karl.

Brave boat harbor: Now a conservation area on Gerrish Island in southern Maine, north of Portsmouth, NH. The *Pinafore* was the Laighton family's steam tug.

Wizard's Son: A serialized novel by Scottish author Margaret Oliphant (1828-1897), *The Wizard's Son* (1884). The novel was serialized in *Macmillan's Magazine*, November 1882 through March 1884 (v. 47-9). The serial also appeared in the United States in *Littell's Living Age*, 158-160 April 1883 - March 1884, where Whittier, Fields, Jewett and Thaxter read it. A central problem of the novel is the protagonist's dealings with a sinister ghost he inherited with his estate.

Pinny: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Shoals. 17th June

(83

Dearest & dearest:

I am beginning to be anxious, it is so long since my last letter to you went, & I have heard no word in reply. Pray heaven all is well with you! I sent to Charles St. but I am sure you were at Manchester, & perhaps you did not get my letter at all. I was so much obliged for the Littells & found the story so interesting, as truly thy friend* said it was. Most exceptionally so. O Annie yesterday Mr. Albee sailed over from Newcastle with Edmund Clarence Stedman,* if you please — he took up your book from the center table & did nothing but rave about you & Theocritus,* or little

[*Page 2*]

else, while he was here, & as for your picture it quite took away his breath, & I only wish I could remember half the things he said about it & you. But with all he said & if he had talked all day, he wouldn't have said enough.

18th Monday. Today the Appledore* begins her trips & the house opens. I shall be so glad of a daily mail, O no tongue can tell how glad to be able to send letters & receive them.

I am rushing this [morning *?*] with "last things" before my quiet is invaded. Aunty Reed* comes tomorrow. O I hope the boat will bring me a line from you! How is your dear garden? Mine is triumphant — weeds all out, peas all stuck, vines trained & every thing

[*Page 3*]

transplanted that was to be transplanted. I have devoted one whole bed to coreopsis coronata: it is the most beautiful flower! How grows your yellow Venidium? Flat as a mat to the ground! Don't fear, it will send up long slender stalks all clothed in shining yellow bloom & keep sending them up till the frost. Write, write to your ever loving

CT.

Julia* has a little girl born 17th June{.}

Notes

thy friend. John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents. Whittier in a letter of 10 May 1883 had recommended that Fields read a serialized novel by Scottish author Margaret

Oliphant (1828-1897), *The Wizard's Son* (1884). The novel was serialized in *Macmillan's Magazine*, November 1882 through March 1884 (v. 47-9). The serial also appeared in the United States in *Littell's Living Age*, 158-160 April 1883 - March 1884, where Whittier, Fields, Jewett and Thaxter read it.

Mr. Albee ...Edmund Clarence Stedman: For Stedman, Key to Correspondents.

John Albee (1833-1915) was an American poet and friend of Stedman, both of whom had homes in Newcastle, NH.

Fields would have appreciated the praise of Stedman, a well-known author and editor. That he mentions the third-century B.C. Greek poet, Theocritus, indicates that Stedman speaks of Fields as a poet and of her 1881 collection, *Under the Olive*.

The Appledore: *In Ninety years at the Isles of Shoals*, Oscar Laighton says that the Laightons commissioned the building of the steamer *Appledore* to carry passengers between Portsmouth, NH and the Isles of the Shoals during the summer season, thereby increasing custom at their hotel. In addition to this steamer, the Laightons also used a steam tugboat, the *Pinafore*, for transporting supplies and family members throughout the year.

Aunty Reed: This person has not yet been identified, though she is known to have been a philanthropist, a resident of Montpelier, VT, and a close friend of Thaxter.

Julia: Thaxter's brother, Cedric Laighton, was married to Julia Stowell. Their daughter was Ruth. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Thursday night

[*21 June 1883*]*

My dearest Fuffy

I have just come home from Exeter where we had a most successful occasion. I shall tell you all about it — sometime, but you will easily imagine it all for yourself — the old classmates having such a beautiful time together and Mother and [nice *?*]

[*Page 2*]

aunt Marys* finding very greyheaded beaux and reminding each other of old times — Today there was a grand dinner in such a big tent! — Pinny to go, and to be set in a pretty situation on account of the virtue of her forbears and Mr. Bancroft* presided nobly and Ben Butler* made a truly eloquent speech, the best he could do, and Pres.

[*Page 3*]

Eliot followed in one that went on, most eloquently also — from where B.B. left off, and though the Governor was greatly applauded Prest Eliot was applauded three times as much. (* Mr. Geo. S. Hale* made a very fine speech — one of the very best and that is saying a great deal, and there was such a clapping and

[*Page 4*]

stamping as never was. Dr. Peabody also was good and great, and Pinny had a most uncommon good ^time^ particularly when her dear grandpapa was speaked about and was clapped and racketted at as much as anyone. Such a noise about him! and he sat there looking so pleased and bright, but as if he were a visitor from the other world of his own day and generation,

[*Page 5*]

and was a solitary being among the great crowd of two thousand — two thousand! I don't know how many more, for they gathered and gathered after the dinner was over and the speeches began. [this *not capitalized*] morning she went to see dear old Prof. Packard who was her fathers friend and she went to see her Aunt Helen who had come from Portland with Uncle John,* and in fact she ran about town a good deal. She wore her little Paris dress with the lace yesterday & today until the dinner, when she appeared in

[*Page 6*]

the white one with the bonnet and ^the little red silk shawl, and^ was considered by her mother to be a very black Pinny, but we will hope a comely Pinny as well.

(— I wish* I had you here dearest Fuff — for when we got home (Mary & I) we heard that Carrie was not very well, so Mary went right up there to stay, as Mr. Eastman is still in Exeter.* I hope to

[*Page 7*]

get Carrie off to the sea before very long — at least I am trying hard to achieve it — I am in the midst of high society life for there is to be a big wedding in church! here this ^next^ week and Pinny a front seat! It is one of the Burleighs,* but Fuff doesnt know her — Oh Fuffy, there is no Wizard's Son* this week either, what shall we do? —— Dear dear little girl — I wish you did

[*Page 8*]

feel like the Italian class — there will be Pinny to teach again next time we go — ladies, and Fuffy should think of it. And you need not go every week — & perhaps — but I will not tease you because you know best, my darling.

How is Roger?* I suppose he is all right and makes big mud tracks on the clean floor — and is just the same as ever, but I like to know —)* I look

[*Page 9*]

forward always to having you again and being with you — it is so lovely, and I shut my eyes and look all about — at the rock* and down into the orchard and out to sea. And I want to hear somebody say yes, when I say Fuf-fy! which doesn't happen now.— And Pin just said it out loud to see, because she is alone too — you know. (— Mrs. John Phillips was staying with Aunt Mary Bell* and was very nice. I saw a good deal

[*Up the left margin and then across the top margin of page 9*]

of her — How nice about Sandpiper!* Good night darling — from Pin.)

Notes

21 June 1883: This date is confirmed by the notes below, particularly those regarding the centennial celebration of Phillips Exeter Academy.

Fuffy: Nickname for Annie Adams Fields.

Aunt Marys: Aunt Mary Bell is mentioned later in this letter. The other probably is Mary Olivia Gilman Long. Key to Correspondents.

Pinny: Sarah Orne Jewett.

(: This deleted parenthesis mark was almost certainly penciled in by Annie Fields.

Mr. Bancroft ... Ben Butler ... Pres. Eliot ... the Governor ... Mr. Geo. S. Hale ... Dr. Peabody: Established by John Phillips (1719-1795) in 1781, the Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, NH graduated its first class in 1783. A centennial celebration took place on June 20-21, 1883.

The speakers on the first evening, Wednesday, included: New Hampshire governor, Benjamin F. Prescott (1833-1895) and the Principal of Phillips Academy at Andover, MA, Cecil F. P. Bancroft. On Thursday afternoon, the speakers included: the historian and statesman George Bancroft (1800-1891), the retired president of Harvard University, Rev. Andrew Preston Peabody (1811-1893), Massachusetts governor, Benjamin F. Butler (1818-1893), the current president of Harvard University, Charles William Eliot (1834-1926),and the philanthropist George Silsbee Hale (1825-1897). Hale would be well-known to Fields, who worked with him at the Associated Charities of Boston.

Academy founder, John Phillips married into the Gilman side of Jewett's family.

old Prof. Packard ... Aunt Helen ... with Uncle John: Professor Alpheus S. Packard, (1798-1884), an academy alumnus, delivered one of the Wednesday evening addresses at the centennial celebration.

For Helen Williams Gilman and John Taylor Gilman, see Key to Correspondents.

wish: The parenthesis mark at the beginning of this paragraph almost certainly was penciled in by Annie Fields.

Mary ... Carrie .. Mr Eastman: Mary Rice Jewett, Caroline Jewett Eastman and Edwin Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

one of the Burleighs: Jewett was acquainted with the prominent Burleigh family of South Berwick. Matilda Burleigh was the widow of a mill owner and Maine congressman, John Holmes Burleigh (1822-1877). See Wikipedia.

Their daughter was Sarah Elizabeth Burleigh (1863-1937), who married James Thomas Davidson (1856-1901) on July 3, 1883.

Wizard's Son: Margaret Oliphant (1828-1897) was the popular Scottish author of *The Wizard's Son* (1884). The novel was serialized in *Macmillan's Magazine*, November 1882 through March 1884 (v. 47-9).

The novel also was serialized in the United States in *Littell's Living Age*, 158-160 April 1883 - March, 1884, where Jewett, Fields and Whittier read it.

Roger: Probably Jewett's dog, which seems to have stayed for a while with Fields.

know: The parenthesis mark here looks to have been penciled in by Fields, as do those in the remaining portion of the letter.

— at the rock: It is not clear whether this dash was written by Jewett or by Fields.

Mrs. John Phillips: Probably this is the wife of John Charles Phillips (1838-1885),who was descended from the founder of the Phillips Exeter Academy. She was Anna T. Tucker Phillips (1849-1925).

Sandpiper: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

[*22 June 1883*]*

Messrs Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Please send me by Goodwin's Express 32 Court Square [two *corrected*] copies of Deephaven, Country By-Ways and Old Friends & New.* And will you please send for me to Mrs. Rice* 35 Union Park Boston a copy

[*Page 2*]

of From Ponkapog to Pesth and ^of^ The Life of Emily Bronte which Roberts lately published.

——

— Please send another copy [*deleted word*] of the latter book to me in my parcel — charging all to me.

Yours very truly

Sarah O. Jewett

South Berwick

22 June

Notes

1883: In the upper left in blue ink a Houghton Mifflin date stamp, June 23 1883. On the upper right, in another hand in blue ink: initials that may be TBU, and "Sarah O. Jewett." Jewett dates her letter at the end.

Deephaven, Country By-Ways and Old Friends & New: Jewett has underlined only part of each title, but I have assumed she meant to convey that the whole of each is underlined. These were Jewett's first three books for adult readers, published respectively in 1877, 1881, and 1879.

Mrs Rice: Cora Lee Rice. Key to Correspondents.

From Ponkapog to Pesth ... The Life of Emily Bronte: Thomas Bailey Adrich's *From Ponkapog to Pesth* (1883); Key to Correspondents. And A. Mary F. Robinson, *Emily Brontë* (1883).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Wednesday night

[*27 June 1883*]*

Dear Fuff

I never knew [*any*] thing so beautiful! but [*of*] course the linnet* loves [*it. I*] knew he would; but for [*you*] I was more delighted than you were when I got your letter and his. The dear linnet [*how*] he must have been looking [*more*] and more inscrutably satisfied all the time he was reading it, and have begun the letter

[*Page 2*]

'incidental' — And if you had heard him go on about Theocritus* that evening when I did, you would have lost all hope of ever doing the like again — Oh My dear little Fuff I am so glad about it. Didn't I always say you would have more lovely things to say! Not to be a keeping-still Fuff: but I know one thing — that Pintoe* bursted its dear self with pride — it hoped you would excuse it, but it could not contain even one of Pin's feets when she was so proud.

[*breaks off; no signature*]

Notes

July 1883: 1883 appears in pencil in the upper right of page 1. While the letter contains no confirming information, there is a fairly strong implication that Fields has submitted her first poem to *Atlantic* to be accepted after the death

of James T. Fields in April 1881. See notes below.

Jewett and Fields began using the Fuff and Pinny Lawson nicknames in the spring of 1882.

This manuscript has two pieces torn away from the right side. Italics words in brackets are guesses about the content of the missing parts.

linnet: Then *Atlantic* editor, Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

Theocritus: Theocritus (c. 308 - c. 240 BC), Greek originator of pastoral poetry. Annie Fields's poem, "Theocritus" appeared in *Under the Olive* (1881).

If the date of the letter is correct, then Fields's "Theocritus" cannot be the poem that it appears Fields has just shown to Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Further, if the date is correct, then this would likely be the first new poem that Fields published in *Atlantic* after her husband's death in April 1881. The occasion of Aldrich's enthusiastic acceptance of the poem would be a milestone as Jewett implies. Almost certainly, then, Jewett speaks of "Chrysalides," which appeared in September.

See Fields to Jewett of June 1883 and Fields to Aldrich of 4 July 1883.

Pintoe: Presumably a play upon Pinny Lawson (Pin), one of Jewett's nicknames. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick

Thursday evening

[*28 June 1883*] *

Dear friend

Your letter has just reached me here, and I can only say that I still hope to reach Holderness and that A. F.* will go too — I shall have to stay here for the present as my mother and sister will both be away but the very ^first^ chance I can get, I shall try again to make the little visit at

[*Page 2*]

the Asquam House to which I have so long been looking forward — It was well that we did not start in the great heat of last week perhaps — but I was much disappointed — I went over to Manchester hoping to start next morning ——

It seems to be a great sorrow to our dear friend to stay at Manchester, and neither

[*Page 2*]

can she bear to be away, though she seemed to care very much to see you — I stay with her every minute that I can get, but of course at this time of the year I often ought to be here — She is better contented while I am staying with her, but every letter almost makes my heart ache with the story of her miserable loneliness whether she tells it or I only 'read between the lines.'

[*Page 4*]

I am dreadfully troubled sometimes for in spite of everything it seems as if it were harder and harder for her just to be alive — And there are still so many things to please her and comfort her — The only thing is to keep as close to her as we can and love her all we can. I do truly love her — [but *corrected*] I pity her as I would pity a little child that has been run over and hurt, and yet has to get up

[*Page 5*]

and keep on its way.

But I must not write only of this sadness — I wish to tell you how glad I am that you are feeling better at Holderness, and that tomorrow morning early Mary* and I are to start for Portsmouth and the Shoals where we are going to spend the night with the Sandpiper.* Saturday night Mary is going on to my aunt's* summer place

[*Page 6*]

at Little Boar's Head where she will spend a week or two — Mother is going to Wells on Monday and I am going to write as fast as I can and keep house for myself — though perhaps I shall have Mrs. Rice* here for a day or two — I shall send your note to Annie Fields so she will read it too — and you will see us coming one of these days{.}

Yours lovingly,

Sarah

Notes

28 June 1883: Richard Cary dated this letter 5 July 1883, which indeed was a Thursday, but

Jewett has dated another letter to Lilian Woodman Aldrich from Manchester by the Sea on 5 July. Given the travel plans Jewett describes in this letter, it seems likely she composed it on the Thursday before 5 July.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett.

Sandpiper: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

aunt's: The Jewetts' aunt at Little Boar's Head was Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Rice: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA. A previous transcription by Richard Cary appears in "'Yours Always Lovingly': Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 107 (1971): 412-50. New transcription and notes.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Shoals. June 28th (83

Dear Annie, I think, I <u>am afraid</u> I sent you the wrong coreopsis — they are mixed in my garden bed, & until they blossom I cannot be sure which is which — They are all handsome, but the one I wished to send you is <u>wonderful</u>. In a day or two they will be out, & then I can tell —

How are you, dearest, I wonder, this stormy day? I hoped to see the Paines & Rose* today, but tis so stormy — I'm sure they wont come — I am dreading Aunty Reed's* departure on Saturday — it has been such a comfort to have her here. If Mary* is with you do give my love to her. There are but few people here as yet — don't expect them till after 4th July — Poor Julia wont be able to come down till the 20th = the little Ruth* flourishes. Cedric does nothing but laugh at her, she is so comical, he says.

[*Page 2*]

I have a wonderful letter from Miss Rotch* which I am going to send you presently when I have shown it to Rose.

Aunty Reed has been reading Jane Carlyle* aloud to me while I painted. It is very interesting yet I must confess I did get tired of so many bedbugs & headaches & blue pills & castor oil & sleepless nights & barking dogs — I think half of it & the bed bugs & bowel complaints would have been better unprinted — once, twice, or thrice, one could ^have^ patience, but the reiteration, forever & a day! It <u>is</u> such a pity that <u>everything</u> in a person's life should be dragged through the middle of the king's highway; don't you think, dearest?

29th My birthday* — so old! 48 — To think of having lived nearly half a century! It isn't five oclock in the [morng *so written*] — I have just been down stairs in the big bakery watching the bakers, for they made such <u>wondrous</u> rolls & bread sticks I had to go & see how they did it. O my, such larks, & I am put up to so many tricks! Head baker has worked in the principal confectioners & hotels in Boston & is

[*Page 3*]

all accomplished & what he did with the snow-white, almost aerial, sensitive mass of dough, was perfectly amazing — And the bakers looked so remarkably picturesque & handsome & <u>innocent</u>, in differently-shaped caps of absolutely snow white linen, indeed the whole costume white like the flour they used — I feel so learned!

The delicate little rolls he made were so astonishing I <u>had</u> to go & investigate — I have never seen any thing equal to them here or abroad —

You ask after Mrs De.Normandie* — I send her letter, dear, in reply to your question. Is it not beautiful to see how the poor child has emerged! I am truly most grateful & thankful —

The boot black, shod with silence, just stole past me up the stairs, to gather up the shoes at sleepers' doors — that shows how early it is! I am waiting over here at the hotel for the early six o'clock breakfast to be ready, & scratching my notes fast as I can.

[*Page 4*]

Your blessed note came last night — I am so glad when I see them coming! How lovely to have Mary with you! I sent Mrs Osgood* her pimpernel, thanks to you, for I never dreamed such a place as Bar Mills existed — She wrote me a pleasant note & said that she had had such a lovely time with you.

There — my stylographic refuses to write another word — the ink is out! I am ashamed to

send such a dim, illegible scrawl, but its all right if the heart's pure. The photo of which Emily speaks is the one Notman* took last winter — she seems to "like the looks on't" —

Do write to me every time you can, you beautiful sweet dear — Karl thanks you for your kind words & so do I — He bears his trouble so well — & is already at work on more inventions — O I wish & I wish you were nearer!

Goodbye dear. Your lovingest

CT.

Notes

Paines & Rose: For Rose Lamb, Key to Correspondents.

John Knowles Paine (1839-1906) was an American composer who also served as professor of music at Harvard University. His wife was Mary Elizabeth Greeley (1836-1920).

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett.

Aunty Reed's: This person has not yet been identified, though she is known to have been a philanthropist, a resident of Montpelier, VT, and a close friend of Thaxter.

Julia ... Ruth: Thaxter's brother, Cedric Laighton, was married to Julia Stowell. Their daughter was Ruth. See Thaxter in Key to Correspondents.

I have a wonderful letter from Miss Rotch: This line seems written in pencil, unlike most of the rest of the letter, but later Thaxter says that what looks like pencil is actually her stylographic pen, a kind of early fountain pen.

Miss Rotch may be Joanna Rotch (1826-1911) of Milton, MA., who shared Thaxter's interest in Spiritualism, or she may be Annie Lawrence Rotch (1857-1950), who married Rose Lamb's brother, Horace, in 1890.

Jane Carlyle: *Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle; Prepared for Publication by Thomas Carlyle*, Edited by James Anthony Froude. (1883). See Scottsh author and wife of Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), Jane Welsh Carlyle (1801-1866) in Wikipedia.

birthday: This paragraph and the rest of the letter, until the final two paragraphs are written in what looks like pencil, but is apparently stylographic pen.

Mrs De Normandie: For many years, 47 State Street Portsmouth, NH was the winter residence of Oscar Laighton, his sister Celia and her son Karl Thaxter. Laighton purchased the house from Emily. F. de Normandie (1836-1916) in April 1887. Her husband was a Unitarian minister, James de Normandie (1836-1924). See *Men of Progress* p. 360.

Pinny: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Mrs Osgood: Almost certainly she is Martha Hooper Usher (Mrs. Joseph) Osgood (1 May1823 - 27 February 1893) from Bar Mills, ME, a village about 11 miles west of Portland, ME. See Jewett's obituary article from 1893.

Notman: The Scottish-born Canadian photographer William Notman (1826-1891), based in Montreal, maintained studios in the Boston area in the 1880s.

Karl: Thaxter's eldest son, who was disabled.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury 6th Mo 29 '83

My dear Friend,

I wish I could look with thee this sultry morning from Thunderbolt Hill* over the cool blue ocean. But, I have felt the need of getting further inland, having been ill with colds for the last three weeks. I went to Portland — but was unable to attend the Friends Yearly Meeting* except for a brief session. However, I had a pleasant visit at my niece's, and met a good many nice people. I saw Mrs. Ellen Perry,* who seems

[*Page 2*]

to be doing well, and is hopeful & happy. She says thy sympathy & kind and wise advice when we saw her in Boston, ~~was~~ will always be remembered with gratitude. She acted upon thy advice, and after some months of discouraging trials, found herself on the way to a permanent support of herself and child. So, in her case "the blessing of those ~~that~~ ^who^ are about to perish" rests upon thee.

Lucy Larcom* who says she is going to call on thee soon took thy "Jane Carlyle Letters"* & will hand them to thee. I enjoyed

[*Page 3*]

reading them exceedingly. But I am glad I was never one of [her *written over* their *?*] [visiters *or* visitors *?*], and consequently never exposed to ~~their~~ her and her husband's sarcasm & criticism.

Where is Elizabeth Phelps* this summer? And, if at East Gloucester I wonder who is with her? Mrs Freeland who was with her last summer is, I learn unable to be there this season. I suppose her new book "Within the Gates" will appear this fall.

Has thee seen the new book by the author of Mr Isaac's? — I have been reading "Freedom of Faith" by ^the^ author of "On the Threshold" just published by Houghton & Co{.} It is refreshing and tonic as the North-west wind. The

[*Page 4*]

writer is one of the leaders of the new departure from ultra Calvinism.

Is Sarah Jewett with thee? If I had not been too tired and ill when I returned from Portland I should have stopped at S. Berwick, & seen her. I hope she will visit more of the "Byways" of the region, and "make a note of it."

Of course you will both come by the Asquam House.* Let me know about when you will come, & I will see that you have your quarters ready. In the meantime, I am most affectionately thy friend*

John G Whittier

Notes

Thunderbolt Hill: The site of Fields's summer home in Manchester by the Sea.

Friends Yearly Meeting: The Quakers or Society of Friends has traditionally held annual meetings of state and regional societies. Whittier attended the 1883 meeting in Portland, ME.

Mrs. Ellen Perry: This person has not yet been identified. For the blessing of those about to perish, see the Bible: Job 29:13.

Lucy Larcom: Lucy Larcom (1824-1893) was a popular American author and teacher.

"Jane Carlyle Letters": James Anthony Froude, editor, *Letters and Memorials of Jane Welsh Carlyle, Prepared for Publication by Thomas Carlyle* (New York, 1883), 2 vols.

Elizabeth Phelps ... Mrs Freeland ... "Within the Gates": Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward. Key to Correspondents. Her 1883 sequel to her spiritualist novel, *The Gates Ajar* (1868) was *Beyond the Gates*.

Mrs. Freeland remains as yet unknown. She may be related to Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin, whose mother was Mary Sophia Freeland (1802-1868). Key to Correspondents.

Mr Isaac's ..."Freedom of Faith": *Mr. Isaacs, A Tale of Modern India* (1882) by American author, Francis Marion Crawford (1854-1909). In 1883, he published *Dr. Claudius*.

Freedom of Faith (1883) by American Congregational clergyman, Theodore Thornton Munger.(1830-1910). His *On the Threshold* appeared in 1880.

"Byways": Sarah Orne Jewett's 1881 collection of stories and sketches, *Country By-Ways*,

Asquam House: Often Whittier stayed at the Asquam House Hotel on Asquam Lake in New Hampshire during part of his later summers.

friend: An inkblot appears at the bottom left of page 4.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4774.

Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett Fragment

Appledore. June 30th

(83

My dearest Pinny:

Your sweet letter came yesterday on my birthday, & all the pleasure it gave me I could not tell [you *corrected*] in a whole day — you dear! In the morning when I went over from breakfast — (I am writing while I wait for my breakfast in the dining room) as I entered my little cool, fresh bright room, a golden moth about as big as a quarter of a dollar, came fluttering round & round me, such a dear pale golden thing, with a brown bar across each wing, & I said, "whose thought is this that comes fluttering to me, whose sweet thought, I wonder"! It must have

[*Page 2*]

been yours, my Pinny! I thank you so much for all your dear words — such a <u>dear</u> letter! This is my brother Oscar's birthday & such lots of things

I had for him, a big bachelor button vase like Flower's,* only big & tall —

Just then my breakfast came & now it is Sunday afternoon & Pin dear, I cant find a minute to write! Rose Lamb came last night & Gen Armstrong — Aunty Reed & Miss Trotter having gone in the afternoon. The Paines* were to have appeared, but a word today says Mrs. P. was not well & they come tomorrow. That means music & music & music, so I am glad —

[*Page 3*]

There are fifteen envelopes I have got to fill, all addressed, five of them done, & I was so afraid I wouldn't get any word to you for days that I grabbed my bit of a begun note to add just a word, that thanks at least may go to you — To think of that poppy! Well, I never heard the like in all my days! Wasnt he red?! O, I do hope you'll come before such a crowd comes! The wild roses just began to blow & tops of things all over the garden breaking out in pink, blue{,} scarlet, white & blazing gold —

I long to have you go back to Flower! Gen Armstrong is

[*Page 4*]

nice — he is always talking about Flower — O I had such a lovely birthday vase, peacock blue-green glass, such a lovely shape. Want to show it to Pinny — Pinny cant love Sandpiper so much as Sandpiper loves Pinny — Write again soon to

[*Signed with a drawing of a sandpiper*]

Notes

Flower's: Flower was Annie Adams Fields. Oscar Laighton was Thaxter's brother. Key to Correspondents.

Rose Lamb ... Gen Armstrong ... Aunty Reed & Miss Trotter ... Paines: For Lamb, Key to Correspondents.

The Hampton Institute, founded in 1861 to educate former African American slaves, is now known as Hampton University. The first principal of the school was General Samuel Chapman Armstrong (1839-1893).

Aunty Reed and Miss Trotter have not yet been identified. Aunty Reed is known to have been a philanthropist, a resident of Montpelier, VT, and a close friend of Thaxter.

John Knowles Paine (1839-1906) was an American composer who also served as professor of music at Harvard University. His wife was Mary Elizabeth Greeley (1836-1920).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields
Fragment

Sunday 1 July

[*1883*]*

Dear F-) I have just finished a longer than usual [send to send *so written*] to the Linnet* which is a great satisfaction — It is all about my morning ramble and I wish I could read it to you. I believe Fuff would like it — I am so anxious to get some of my stories done, but though I have worked very hard they aren't very easily persuaded — I have finished one or two things which I shouldn't like to read to you so I gave them up — If I could get one long story done I would ^not^ touch my pen and half sheets again for a month —— It's an awful

[*Page 2*]

drag to write on and on, month after month much as I like it — but darling you know I cant stop just now — I have got a good way into a tale which has several nice people in it — a story not unlike the Mate of the Daylight* in its surroundings and it keeps me thinking about it a great deal —

It has been a beautiful cool bright day — and we would have gone to the Dana place* again if I had been at Manchester. I have thought so often of that lovely walk (with my dear little girl, and)

[*Manuscript breaks off. No signature.*]

Notes

1883: This date is confirmed by Jewett almost certainly referring to "The Confession of a House-Breaker," which was published in 1883.

Fields has penciled a note at the upper right: "188—". She has deleted the greeting.

Parenthesis marks in this manuscript were penciled by Fields.

Linnet: Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

Almost certainly, Jewett has sent him "The Confession of a House-Breaker," which

appeared anonymously in the *Atlantic Monthly* Contributors Club column in September 1883.

Mate of the Daylight: Jewett's "The Mate of the Daylight" appeared in *Atlantic* in July 1882. While it is difficult to know which story Jewett was working on with a similar setting, if she published it, a likely title would be "An Only Son," which appeared in *Atlantic* in November 1883.

Dana place: Almost certainly this is Richard Henry Dana III, whose family maintained a summer home in Manchester by the Sea, MA. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Adams Fields to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

July 4th 1883.

Manchester by the Sea.

My dear friend:

Thank you for sending me this proof of your Portsmouth letter. It is beautifully done! I take it for granted that I may keep this copy which I very much wish to do. It is most characteristically (~~and~~ dear me! what a long word!) and tenderly written.

I return the proof of the poem. I only hope the changes are distinct — one line is to be inserted — on second thought I will write the whole passage

[*Page 2*]

on a fresh slip and enclose{.}

Thank you again and always for the Portsmouth letter.

*Affectionately yours

(and Lilian's)

Annie Fields.

Please let me have the poem again if you see anything which I have omitted when you re=read* it —

Notes

Portsmouth letter: This reference has not yet been explained. Aldrich grew up in Portsmouth, NH. His memoir of living in Portsmouth, *An Old Town By the Sea* first appeared in 1874.

poem: Fields's poem "Chrysalides" appears in *Atlantic Monthly* in September 1883; "The Initiate" appeared in December.

re=read: so written.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: MS Am 1429, Box 6, Items 1446-1538.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

EDITORIAL OFFICE OF

The Atlantic Monthly,

BOSTON.

[*End letterhead*]

[*Date added to the right of the letterhead*]

July 6 ' ' , 1883

My dear Miss Sadie:*

Your little out-look sketch is very nice; it is not one of your very best — "my [lud *?*] and jury, I will <u>not</u> deceive you — but it is just a charming bit for a red hot summer-magazine. But O if it had been three or four little clubs — even if they had been little sticks — I would have taken them home for joy, and slept with them

[*Page 2*]

under my pillow until the time came to give out the copy to the printer, which time will come on the 14".

Where shall I send the proof of the Confessions* — say ten days from now?

We are all well & cool — when we're not at Ponkapog. Booth & Edwina* are coming to us on the 12". After their visit, L and I mean to run down to Manchester if only for a day.

Ever very faithfully yours

T.B.A.

Notes

Sadie: Aldrich uses his affectionate nickname, "Sadie Martinot." Key to Correspondents.

Confessions: Aldrich refers to Jewett's "The Confessions of a House-breaker," which appeared anonymously in the Contributor's Club column of *Atlantic Monthly* in September 1883.

Booth & Edwina: American actor, Edwin Thomas Booth (1833-1893) and his daughter, author Edwina Booth Grossman (1861-1938). Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. bMS Am 1743 (4). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Celia Thaxter's 1883 Accident

This next set of letters is related to Thaxter's 1883 "crash." I have grouped them together and provided this introduction to reduce confusion likely to result by spreading them through this collection according to their probable composition dates.

In the following group of letters, Thaxter reports to Annie Fields and Sarah Orne Jewett about a severe accident she suffered, almost certainly in 1883. Uncharacteristically, she gives full dates in none of them. Establishing the order of the letters and their probable dates is complicated.

While Thaxter provides a good number of clues, her dating one letter "28th Sunday" presents a serious problem. The only Sunday to fall on the 28th of the month during 1883 is in October, and that squares with none of the other main clues. During the rest of Thaxter's life, 28 July falls on Sunday only in 1889, a year in which no correspondence suggests Thaxter suffered such an accident. I speculate, therefore, that she misdated the 28th Sunday letter, meaning to write "29th Sunday," which would place the letter in July of 1883.

Main reasons for believing the accident occurred in 1883.

- In the letters, she refers to Jewett as Pin/Pinny. This nickname for Jewett was invented almost certainly in early 1882; Jewett and Fields were in Europe together in the summer of 1882. Therefore 1883 is the earliest possible year for this letter.

- After the accident, Rose Lamb reads to Thaxter from Francis Marion Crawford's novel, *Dr. Claudius*, which first appeared in May or June of 1883. Thaxter also reports Lamb reading to her in a letter to Fields of 28 June 1883.

In the same 28 June letter, Thaxter expresses the fear that she has sent Fields the wrong coreopsis, not the one she intended. In the last in this group (6 August), Thaxter says she has verified that she sent Fields the wrong coreopsis.

See Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier of Sunday 20 August 1883, in which she speaks of Thaxter's recovery from a "blow."

Main reasons for believing the accident occurred in July.

- In a letter to Jewett of 30 June 1883, Thaxter clearly is well.

- In the 28 June letter to Fields, Thaxter's coreopsis have not blossomed; in the last letter of the group, they have opened. In Maine, coreopsis typically begins blooming in July. Problematic at this point, however, is that she expects the flowers to bloom in a day or two, yet seemingly by 22 July, she has not reported on them.

- Thaxter writes from the Shoals, where she normally would be in July.

While there is other evidence relevant to determining dates in the letters, the other clues seem to support the reasoning above. Still, I emphasize that my speculation about Thaxter being off by a day in dating the "28th Sunday" letter remains problematic. For example, the time line would fit pretty well if somehow she managed to write "28" when she meant July 8, which did fall on a Sunday in 1883.

Rationale for the Order and Dating of these Letters

Probable date of the accident — Sunday 22 July 1883

Wednesday 25 July 1883
Thaxter is somewhat better since the accident, able to sit up as long as an hour, with both eyes now open.

Thursday 26 July 1883
Thaxter writes almost the same report to both Jewett and Fields.

This seems to be the first day she has sat up for any length of time since the accident, which she says took place 5 days previous.

Sunday 29 July 1883

Thaxter has dated this letter "28th Sunday," but I am assuming she meant to write "29th Sunday."

She reports that she is now downstairs, suggesting that this has not been the case before. She remains bandaged, using only one eye.

Monday 6 August 1883

She has been resting and still suffers pain, but she can use both eyes. She is now certain that she sent Fields the wrong coreopsis. This suggests that she has been able to visit her garden.

Nicknames

Thaxter uses her typical nicknames throughout these letters. Sandpiper for herself, Owl and variations on Pinny for Jewett, Flower for Fields.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Wed morn

[*25 July 1883*]

Dearest,

I have got my eyes open this [morning *?*] & have sat up an hour & am getting on nicely — Thousand thanks for your dear letter & offer to come — Indeed I wish you would come! whether I need nursing or not — Every body is kind & lovely, of course. It was an awful crash. [how *not capitalized*] I escaped I know not{.}

[*Up the left margin and then in the top margin*]

I suppose the Dr would kill me if he saw me doing this! But hope to do [more tomorrow *?*] — Shall get [to *?*] see you soon as can. Am a shocking sight to be seen

Your lovingest

C.

You dear, dear kind Annie!

Note

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 1 Folder 1 (i-xviii).

Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett

Thursday

[*26 July 1883*]

O dearest Pin, I did almost destroy myself! Really it was a wonderful escape — but the nose wasn't wrecked, dear Pin — 'twas a wonder the brain wasnt! The whole side of the skull, the bone itself, is swelled out hideously & Lord knows if ~~if~~ it ever will go down & if I shan't be a lopsided Sandpiper forever. This is the first day I sat up & my head feels as if it were mashed under a mill stone, but thank God, my eyes are intact. Your dear little picture, Pin, [of the Owl *?*] watching

[*Page 2*]

with Sandpiper! [We *?*] screamed over it.

Dear Rose* so good to Pinny's Sandpiper{.} Every body good — So many flowers — Dear [Mrs *?*] Ole* sent fruit & all, & such a dear letter{.} I wish could get to Flower & mean to go see her soon as can —

But Sandpiper a dreadful sight!

[*Page 3*]

Will send Owl another [photo *corrected*] dear owl! Sandpiper loves her & will write again

[*signed with a stick drawing of a sandpiper*]

Notes

The Boston Public Library includes with this manuscript a transcription by EKC, who had access to the original. The image of this page is too light to make out some words, and I assume EKC has it right.

Rose: Rose Lamb. Key to Correspondents.

Ole: Sara Chapman Thorp Bull. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 1 Folder 1 (i-xviii).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Thursday

[26 *July 1883*]

Dearest Annie:

This is the 5th day, & I am sitting up this morning but my head feels dreadfully & the skull is swelled out so big it seems as if it never could go down, but the Dr says it will in time —

It was a wonderful escape{.} I dont know what saved me — Thank you for your [*unrecognized word*] kind letter{.} I scratched a word to Pin & mustn't write more, for it makes my head spin. With dearest dearest love

Your C*

Notes

C: On the back of the sheet appears this note: The body feels no pain when the Soul abases herself intensely to God. Though this seems to be a quotation, its source is not yet known.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 1 Folder 1 (i-xviii).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

28th Sunday

[*29 July 1883*]*

My dearest:

I am down stairs today, with my head done up in a heap of muslin & one eye to see with — Your dear letter — thanks & ever thanks, & for thought of the book —, I have it from two different people, — what a lovely picture! Rose has been reading Dr. Claudius* to me — we have found it most charming — Soon as I can possibly I am coming to you for day & night* — should for longer only I cannot & must not leave Karl* for more than one night{.}

[*Page 2*]

Monday A.M.

— ten thousand things hold me but that is the most imperative. I cannot find a minute to write, you see!

I shall try the early boat & reach you as early as [possible *corrected*], so to have a good long day & evening, & then take the morning boat back next day — I long to see you! So much to talk about — The dear flower was so pretty. [Ju *?*]* has it — I [havnt *so it appears*].

Goodbye, you dearest — for early mail I scrawl this — I am almost well, tho' the swelling of the [bone *?*] itself does not go down as I would wish.

Ever & ever yours

C.

Notes

29 July 1883: Though Thaxter has dated her letter 28 July, it seems likely that she meant to date it the 29th. See "Celia Thaxter's 1883 Accident" above.

Rose ... Dr. Claudius: American novelist Francis Marion Crawford (1854-1909) published his second novel, *Dr. Claudius*, in 1883. One of the earliest reviews appears in the June 1883 issue of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* (v. 67 p. 641).

night: Thaxter shifts from pencil to pen after this word.

Karl: Thaxter's oldest son, who was disabled.

Ju: Presumably, Thaxter refers to Julia Stowell, wife of her brother, Cedric. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 1 Folder 1 (i-xviii).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

[*Monday 6 August 1883*]

My dearest Annie:

Many thanks for your dear letter, but why you congratulate me on having smashed my head — that my stupidity cannot fathom! Wherefore?

I have done nothing these past few days but lie round on sofas & wish I could get

away from my head — It is most unpleasant & uncomfortable — The left eye still is dull red where it should be white & it seems as if it never would get clear again. I begin to be very tired of it all —

Sunday* —

Yesterday came John & Roland* to spend Sunday — And the Baroness Schönberg* to call upon me — & I could not introduce her by her title to save my life! Not being in the habit of dealing with Baronesses. But she was charming & most distinguished in her elegant simplicity — I wonder if it isn't stupid living in a Schloss in the Tyrol, with a moat all round & solitude unlimited! But they spend their winters in Rome & that must be pleasant* As for the Baron, such a piece of handsome smoothness I have never seen — And they like the Shoals —

[*Page 2*]

I wish I could have seen your poppies! Mine are still in full blast — That plant I sent was coreopsis Drummondii, not Coronata, after all. The plants are almost exactly alike, the flowers quite different, coronata much more delicate & splendid. How about your marigolds? Have you any? The summer chrysanthemums are as high as my head in my garden, & their gold flowers toss over the fence in the wind. The garden is a lovely wild tangle. But I long to see yours — and it seems ages since I saw your beautiful self — Had it not been for the smashed head I should not have missed the "poppy dills{.}"*

Monday [morng *so written*]. It is so cold & autumnal — for 3 days the wind has been detestable. It has been a bad summer for "business" & now it is so cold that winter seems at the door. It makes me so sad! Dearest I send my love ever & always faithfully & devotedly

Your C.

Notes

Sunday: Thaxter changes ink color for this part of the letter.

John & Roland: Thaxter's middle and youngest sons.

Baroness Schönberg: Samuel Gray Ward (1817-1907) was an American businessman and poet associated with the Transcendentalists. His youngest daughter, Elizabeth Barker "Bessie" Ward (1847-1920), married the Austrian, Baron Ernst Augustus Schönberg-Roth-Schönberg (1850-1924).

"poppy dills": Presumably, Thaxter uses a playful name for poppies, but this is not certain.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 1 Folder 1 (i-xviii).

The section of this volume dealing with Celia Thaxter's accident ends here, and the regular chronology of correspondence resumes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich

[*Begin letterhead, in small caps*]

Gambrel Cottage

Manchester by the Sea

Mass.

[*End letterhead*]

5th July — [*1883*]*

Dear Duchess — *

I am so entirely delighted with my new spoon that I should like to keep an end of it in my mouth and be reasonably certain of a brilliant future — I dont doubt that it gave you a sad pang to part with it, even though it

[*Page 2*]

was for Sadie* who loves you and it so much I cant [think *corrected*] of giving it away even in my will — In return I am going to take you some day, if you will be taken, to a new old furniture shop where the man is at present unequal to imagining McCarty's* prices and where I think you can

[*Page 3*]

find jolly crockery if not some chests of [*deleted word*] ^drawers^ of cherry wood with good brass handles —

You see I am here again and I came last night (through not matching my trains aright) at such a late hour that I had to throw stones at T.L's* window to wake her up — we had such a jolly time and could hardly let

[*Page 4*]

ourselves go to sleep at all —

We are expecting to go to the mountains tomorrow to make thy friend* a two or three days visit, but it is not quite decided{.}

We both have been talking and talking about you and the Duke — If I had ^not^ been sure you were away I should have gone over to Lynn

and spent the night with you. That would only have been half past eight, so

[*Up the left margin and down the top margin of page 1*]

you would not have heard me under your window as T. L. did — I haven't begun to give you the spoon full of thanks but good-bye from

your loving Sadie

[*Up the left margin and down the top margin of page 3*]

How lovely the letter to Portsmouth was! is! and dear T.F.* carries it about in her pocket and is so glad because she has it — I do want to see you dreadfully.

Notes

1883: This letter seems to follow from one to Whittier of 28 June, in which Jewett describes her near future travel plans.

Duchess: Nickname for Lilian Aldrich among her close friends; she and her husband were the Duke and Duchess of Ponkapog. Key to Correspondents.

Sadie: Sadie Martinot was a Jewett nickname with the Aldriches, presumably after the American actress and singer, Sarah/Sadie Martinot. Key to Correspondents.

McCarty's: This business has not been identified. Perhaps Jewett meant to write McCarthy. J. C. McCarthy was a department store at the corner of Tremont and West Streets, Boston.

T.F.: Jewett seems to refer to Fields; these initials may point to other nicknames for Fields, such as T.L. in this letter, A.F. and Fuff in others, or even Thaxter's use of Flower. Key to Correspondents.

thy friend: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Asquam House

Holderness, N.H.

10 7th mo 1883

Dear Sarah Jewett

On my way here I met a Boston (man & his wife), who told me he was interested in the Associated Charities and had seen thee a few days before at Manchester with Mrs F.* So I venture to write thee there. I sent a very hurried note the moment I came here, to A.F. and I now write to say that nothing would give me more pleasure

[*Page 2*]

{than} to see you here. I am sure you will like the place "hugely" as Corporal Trim said of Yorick's sermon.*

You can come two ways. One by the Eastern R R. to Wolfboro on the Lake. The steamer will take you to Centre Harbor, and if we knew exactly when you came, we could have a team waiting for you. At any rate, you can be brought up from the Centre House.

Or, you can take the Boston & Montreal Road to Ashland 10 miles from this place. If you were in Boston this would be the best & most direct{.}

[*Page 3*]

My cousins Joseph & Gertrude Cartland* are with me. Gertrude, Annie will remember as the Quaker lady whom Longfellow* told her of meeting at Amesbury.

I should have been here a week ago but have been as Charles Lamb would say "ratherish unwell."* I am better here and long to see you.

Affectionately

John G Whittier

Notes

Mrs F: Annie Adams Fields.

Yorick's sermon: See Part 2, Chapter 17 of *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy* (1759-1767) by Irish novelist Laurence Sterne (1713-1768).

Cartland: Richard Cary says that Joseph Cartland (1810-1898) and Whittier's cousin

Gertrude Cartland (1822-1911) accompanied Whittier on his summer vacations in Maine and New Hampshire for five decades, and Whittier lived in their home at Newburyport, Massachusetts most of his last fifteen winters.

Longfellow: American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882).

unwell: See *The Life, Letters, and Writings of Charles Lamb* (1876), v. 3, letter 349, p. 71. Lamb (1775-1834) was a British essayist and poet.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 1-4826.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Asquam House

Holderness NH.

7th Mo 20 1883

Dear Sarah Jewett

I felt awfully sorry to have you leave so soon. If you had only staid one day longer! — The day was beautiful — the sunset would have been the despair of a painter. I think I never before saw such a picture of God. Just after you drove away who should make his appearance but Dr. Leslie* of Amesbury who came late the evening

[*Page 2*]

[evening *repeated*] before. He was very sorry not to see thee and thank thee for thy books.

I hope you found the voyage on the Lake a pleasant one. I followed you in thought all the way. Our folks here greatly enjoyed your visit, and all send their love. For my part, I want words to tell thee how grateful and sweet your coming was. I did not mean to trouble thee with a letter, only to thank thee and say God bless thee!

Thine ever

John G Whittier

Notes

Dr. Leslie: Horace Granville Leslie (1842-1907) of Amesbury, MA, a physician and poet, served as a surgeon in the Civil War. See *The Granite Monthly: A New Hampshire Magazine*, Volume 39 (1907), p. 326.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 1-4823.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

[*Begin letterhead, underlined text filled in by hand*]

ASQUAM HOUSE.

SHEPARD HILL.

Alexander W. Weeks, - - Prop'r.

Holderness, N. H. 7th Mo 20 *1883*.

[*End letterhead*]

My dear Friend

I wish thee and Sarah* could have staid a day longer. The place was, I think never so beautiful as it seemed in the afternoon & evening after you left. Such a sunset the Lord never before painted. You have gone away with no idea of the beauty of these lakes & hills; I meant you

[*Page 2*]

should have all that sky & summer cloud, and land and water could give, but Nature did not carry out my good intentions.

But you were here, and, so far as I was concerned, the outside world's behavior was of small consequence. I wonder how I have deserved such friends. As I saw you drive off in the early morning I felt grateful to the good Providence ^for^ the inestimable gift of your friendship.

Our house is now very full — packed I should call it. Yesterday I

[*Page 3; also letterhead*]

was alarmed by the arrival of two more — man & wife, so huge in proportions, that I wonder Barnum* has not secured them for his caravan. The one small room left would not hold them and Alexander, our Landlord, gave them their dinner { and } sent them off. If any body else comes we shall be in the condition of Wordsworth's "party in a parlor"

> "Crammed just as full as H__'ll
> is crammed,"
> "All" crowded "and all damned!"

I think this rather startling com-

[*Page 4*]

parison is in his "Peter Bell."* I hope you got home comfortably, and none the worse for the trip. I was afraid you took cold. I suppose Sarah [slanted *?*] off at the junction at Berwick.

Our cousins all enjoyed the visit, and they send their love. Good bye dear friend! Give thyself the credit of a very good deed in coming here. Kindly remember me to Mrs Bull,* if she is with thee, and to our beloved friend [James *?*] Freeman Clark.* Ever most affectionately thine.

John G Whittier

Notes

1883: J. B. Pickard notes that "Alexander Wood Weeks (b. 1855), a New Hampshire hotel manager, ran the Asquam House in Holderness, New Hampshire. He later ran hotels in Boston, Florida, and Greenfield, Massachusetts."

Several marks have been added to the manuscript. At the top center of page 1 is "4", first in pencil and then written over in ink. "+" appears in the left margin near the bottom of this page. "+" also appears in the left margin near the tops of pages 2 and 3, and again near the bottom of page 3.

At the bottom left of page 2 are a number of marks that seem to be ink smears.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Barnum: Phineas Taylor Barnum (1810-1891) "was an American showman, politician, and businessman remembered for promoting celebrated hoaxes and for founding the Barnum & Bailey Circus."

"Peter Bell": British poet William Wordsworth (1770-1850) published his narrative poem, "Peter Bell" in 1798. Whittier draws from a stanza near the end of part 1 that reads:

> Is it a party in a parlour?
> Cramm'd just as they on earth were cramm'd —
> Some sipping punch, some sipping tea,
> But, as you by their faces see,
> All silent and all damn'd!

Mrs Bull: Sara Chapman Thorp Bull. Key to Correspondents.

Clark: The American activist clergyman and author, James Freeman Clarke (1810-1888). Whittier appears to have omitted the final "e" in his name.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4819.

This letter was previously transcribed by John B. Pickard in *The Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*, V. 3, #1373. Parts of it had appeared in S. Pickard, *Life & Letters*, pp. 688-689. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

Home 20 July —

[*1883*]*

Dear friend

I meant to have told you yesterday that I reached here all right, and that I feel a great deal better and richer for the journey.

—— I find myself remembering that beautiful view of the lakes

[*Page 2*]

and the mountain slopes, and thinking of them over and over again. I think it did Mrs. Fields* a great deal of good too. We had a most lovely drive in the early morning and the sail on Winnipesaukee was most marvellously

[*Page 3*]

beautiful. The sky over the Italian Lakes themselves never was a more delicate colour —

Yesterday morning I drove to York and brought Mrs. Rice* and her little boy back with me — and I enjoyed that very much — both the drive and my

[*Page 4*]

company for the country is as green as England — I saw the Longfellows* who were glad to hear about you — They are going abroad this autumn to study in Oxford, and next summer are going to make Mrs. Ole Bull* a visit in Norway.

Do give my love to your dear cousins and Mrs. Caldwell* for I enjoyed seeing them

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

so much, and shall look forward to seeing them again.

Yours always most lovingly,

Sarah.

Notes

1883: See Whittier to Annie Adams Fields of 20 July 1883.

Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Mrs. Rice: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Ole Bull: Sara Chapman Thorp Bull. Key to Correspondents.

Longfellows: Cary says: "Probably William Pitt Preble Longfellow (1836-1913), son of the poet's brother Stephen, who married Emily Daniell of Boston in 1870. An engineer and architect, he studied and traveled abroad extensively. He was the first editor of the *American Architect* and a trustee of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts."

Caldwell: Cary identifies these Whittier relatives: Joseph Cartland (1810-1898), Gertrude Whittier Cartland (1822-1911) and Adelaide Caldwell, wife of Whittier's nephew Lewis.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA. A previous transcription by Richard Cary appears in "'Yours Always Lovingly': Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 107 (1971): 412-50. New transcription and notes.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

[*Begin letterhead, underlined text filled in by hand*]

ASQUAM HOUSE.

SHEPARD HILL.

Alexander W. Weeks, - - Prop'r.

Holderness, N. H. 7th Mo 23 *188*3.*

[*End letterhead*]

My dear Friend

I shall value your visit still more for the difficulties thee & Sarah* encountered in performing it. Your detention at Wolfboro'* was quite as bad as your ride in the freight car. We have been reading with interest & sympathy Francesca's

[*Page 2*]

beautiful and touching story,* under the pines near the lake, with the plaintive song of the wood-dove as accompaniment. We have been over full here — newcomers have been packed close as [herrings *?*] in a barrel, but this morning two rooms are made vacant. Just as you left, Dr. Leslie of Amesbury,* who is a great admirer of Sarah's writings and who has all her books [here *?*] at hand,

[*Page 3*]

when he comes back tired from his wide area of practice, made his appearance and was sorry not to see her.

I have had a nice letter from her. She has been over to York and brought back with her her friend Mrs Rice.* We are having charming days, neither too warm nor too cold, and out of doors have been always comfortable. Cousin Gertrude and Addie* never tire of talking of you. They

[*Page 4*]

were so delighted with you. We are all better and happier for your coming, and for myself I am more & more grateful to Providence for such friends. They send love to thee. I need not tell that mine goes with it.

Affectionately

John G Whittier

We had a delightful sermon from [*unrecognized word or words*] [Bliss *?*]* of Vermont yesterday in our [Parlour *?*]{.} He is a [broad *?*] Churchman — Prof. in the College —

Notes

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Wolfboro': Wolfeboro, NH was a summer resort town in the late 19th century. The town's name had been shortened from Wolfeborough.

Francesca's beautiful and touching story: Frances / Fanny "Francesca" Alexander (1837-1917). See Lucia Gray Swett Alexander in Key to Correspondents.

In 1883, she published *The Story of Ida*. In 1884, Whittier published a sonnet, "The 'Story of Ida'," which includes this head note: "Francesca Alexander, whose pen and pencil have so reverently transcribed the simple faith and life of the Italian peasantry, wrote the narrative published with John Ruskin's introduction under the title, *The Story of Id*a."

Dr. Leslie of Amesbury: J. B. Pickard notes: "Horace Granville Leslie (1842-1907) was a doctor in Amesbury for almost forty years, besides representing the town in local and state legislatures and performing many civic duties."

Mrs Rice: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Cousin Gertrude and Addie: Richard Cary says that Joseph Cartland (1810-1898) and Whittier's cousin Gertrude Cartland (1822-1911) accompanied Whittier on his summer vacations in Maine and New Hampshire for five decades, and Whittier lived in their home at Newburyport, Massachusetts most of his last fifteen winters.

Adelaide McClung (1843-1902) was the wife of Whittier's nephew, James Lewis Caldwell (1839-1895).

Bliss: This transcription of Whittier's postscript is very tentative. The identity of Mr. Bliss has not yet been discovered, despite knowing that he was presumably a clergyman and a professor at a college. While one might speculate that Whittier met William Dwight Porter Bliss (1856-1926) at this time, this Reverend Bliss seems never to have been a professor and was not from Vermont.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4816.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields and Sarah Orne Jewett

Sturtevant Farm

Centre Harbor

N.H.

[*July/August 1883*]*

My dear Friend

Thy welcome letter is just read. I am sorry that our house here is entirely filled, and that we could not give you more than room for the soles of your feet, if you should visit us. I must

[*Page 2*]

therefore hope that I may see you both under the broad shadows of Oak Knoll when I return.

I do not know where to send this note but shall try So. Berwick.*

I met at the [Senter House *?*] [Hon. *?*] H. S. Washburn,* whose wife told me she had a grand-daughter named

[*Page 3*]

Annie Fields! My heart warmed toward the good lady at once.

Tell dear Sarah that ~~that~~ she has friends everywhere, but none who love her more than thee & I do. We are enjoying her last book under the pines that look down on Lake Asquam. I have not yet seen her story in the Atlantic.*

Ever affectionately thy friend

John G Whittier

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

My cousins* desire to be kindly remembered to thee.

Notes

1883: There seems to be little internal evidence to establish the composition date of this letter. Huntington Library archivists have speculated that it is from July of 1883. The letter does seem to be closely related to other letters known to be from this month. Through July 23, Whittier wrote from Asquam House, making it seem likely that he moved to Sturtevant Farm after that date.

Sturtevant Farm: Sturtevant's farm on Asquam Lake provided Whittier and his friends with a quieter summer residence than was available at resort hotels such as the Asquam House. He seems to have made a pattern of moving to the farm in August. See Pickard, *Life and Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier*, v. 3, pp. 694-5.

So. Berwick: The home town of Sarah Orne Jewett, named in the final paragraph. Key to Correspondents.

H. S. Washburn: Henry Stevenson Washburn (1813-1903), an attorney, businessman, politician and poet from Massachusetts. He is remembered for his Civil War poem, "The Vacant Chair," which became a popular song. It appeared in his collection, *The Vacant Chair and Other Poems* (1895).

He married three women, apparently divorcing the first two: Maria Carlisle Loring (1816-1900) and Lucretia Maria Palmer (b. 1815). His third wife was Luzilla A. Gilman (1841-1890). His "Ancestry" page does not specify which marriages produced the nine children listed with him, though all are named

Washburn and, presumably therefore, were his biological children. One of his children was named Anna Fields "Annie" Washburn (b. 1858). "Geni" names Annie's mother as Maria Washburn. Annie Washburn married Henry Sherman Williams, and eventually resided in Newton, MA. See also *Iron Age* 72 (8 October 1903), p. 45.

Perhaps Whittier misunderstood Mrs. Washburn to say Annie was her grand-daughter, or perhaps the name was passed on to one of the grandchildren as well.

Atlantic: If the year of this letter is 1883, then Jewett's *Atlantic* story in the August number would have been "The Hare and the Tortoise." Her most recent book at that time was *Country By-Ways* (1881).

cousins: Richard Cary says that Joseph Cartland (1810-1898) and Whittier's cousin Gertrude Cartland (1822-1911) accompanied Whittier on his summer vacations in Maine and New Hampshire for five decades, and Whittier lived in their home at Newburyport, Massachusetts most of his last fifteen winters.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4684.

Sarah Orne Jewett to William Hayes Ward

South Berwick

6 August

[*1883*]*

Dear D[r] Ward

I do not know whether you are printing any stories this summer, but I venture to send this — a very quiet account of an elderly lady's love affair!

== I am looking forward with great pleasure to seeing your sister Hetta* this very afternoon as ever is!

Yours sincerely

Sarah Jewett

Notes

1883: While this is not certain, it seems quite probable that the story Jewett sent Dr. Ward was "Miss Manning's Minister," which appeared in *The Independent* of 22 August 1883.

Hetta: Ward's sister, Hetta Lord Hayes Ward. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. MS Am 1631 Box 2, 217. Albert Stephens Borgman autograph collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick

Wednesday

[*August 1883*]

Dear Friend,

I was so glad to get your letter but almost sorry to find that you had come back to this part of the country at what I am afraid is the beginning of a dry hot time — Do be careful, and run back again if you find yourself feeling the change too much —

It was certainly a very bracing air at Asquam* = I felt so much better for the barely

[*Page 2*]

two days I was in the region.

I have been meaning to write you again and to send you this hymn (which you must have thought was forgotten) { — } one copy is for your cousin Mrs. Cartland* — which I would have sent her myself if I had been sure of her address.

I have been very busy indeed since I came home for we have had visitors and part of the time I was

[*Page 3*]

house keeping alone! and then I went down to Little Boar's Head to stay with my cousins the Bells and Gilmans* and stole one night from them to go over to Manchester.* I came away early in the morning, but it was a most lovely evening — Mrs. Claflin* was there and I was glad to see her — I am later in going over to stay than I meant to be but it cannot very well be helped and I can be there later into

[*Page 4*]

September perhaps. I hope still to get to Manchester by the fourteenth or fifteenth.

I have been writing whenever I could get a chance, and just now it is a story which I think you will like. I called it An Only Son* — and the

people are Deacon Price and his son Warren who has disheartened him by spending all his time to no purpose in experimenting with machinery — There is an old captain who has left the sea and [taken *corrected*] to farming whom I am enjoying! The story

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

is not done yet however and it will be only a short one. I think my wings must be hen's wings — I cant take long flights{,} only over a fence here and there.

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

Mary* sends her love to you & so do I —

Yours ever

Sarah

Notes

Asquam: Now called Squam Lake, Lake Asquam is "in the Lakes Region of central New Hampshire, United States, south of the White Mountains, straddling the borders of Grafton, Carroll, and Belknap counties. The largest town center on the lake is Holderness." Wikipedia.

Mrs. Cartland: Richard Cary says: "Joseph Cartland (1810-1898) and Gertrude Cartland (1822-1911), ... accompanied Whittier on his summer vacations in Maine and New Hampshire for five decades, ... in whose home at Newburyport, Massachusetts, he lived most of his last fifteen winters."

The hymn mentioned here is not yet known.

Bells and Gilmans: In *Sarah Orne Jewett: her World and her Work* (2002), Paula Blanchard notes that Jewett frequently visited aunts, uncles and cousins at the shore in Rye, NH. Among those present usually were her great aunts, Mary Bell and Mary Long (p. 31). A number of Jewett's Bell and Gilman relatives appear in Key to Correspondents.

Manchester: Manchester-by-the-Sea, location of the summer home of Annie Adams Fields.

Mrs. Claflin: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

An Only Son: Jewett mentions the main characters in her story, "An Only Son," which appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* 52 (November 1883).

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 12 letters to unidentified persons; [n.d.]. Box:12 Identifier: MS Am 1844, (8616).

Annie Adams Fields to Sarah Orne Jewett

Sunday

[*August-September 1883*]*

My dearest Pinny:

Why did you rob all your pretty trees for my sake! What a beautiful great basket=full! I really feel that you have given me the lion's share.

They came in perfect order, the pretty apples, with the English papers atop, for which my loving thanks — Mabel* fell upon [Punch *corrected*] with alacrity. What a good speech by Lowell at Ashfield — It was in Fridays' Advertiser.

[*Page 2*]

General Armstrong* is here but the rain pours and pours so we cannot go to Danvers —

Truly thy friend* sent me another dear note urging our coming but we should be obliged to swim which would astonish him too much —

I cannot understand what E.M.T.* means. I have

[*Page 3*]

looked through the two last Harpers and find no such thing — I rather wish they would drown my old verses but since I write no new ones I have a tenderness toward them — I cannot get that repose physical and mental which I need both for good health and good writing — however I have more health than writing so I will not complain.

I do hope that Mifs Thomas received my letter{.}

[*Page 4*]

You know I wrote even before you did if I recollect and as I had not written to her before I made rather a point of sending her a good long note. I am sorry if it was lost —

Good bye

my darling

your

Annie Fields

Notes

1883: This is a guess with some rationale. After the death of James T. Fields in April 1882, Annie Fields temporarily stopped writing poems. Though some of her old poems were published in 1883, she did not publish a new one until June 1883. See Jewett to Fields of 27June 1883.

I speculate that this letter was written during those months when Fields believed she would write no more poetry.

Mabel: Mabel Lowell Burnett. *Punch* was a British magazine of humor and satire. Key to Correspondents and Wikipedia.

General Armstrong: Samuel Chapman Armstrong. Key to Correspondents.

Thy friend: John Greenleaf Whittier, whose residence sometimes was Danvers, MA. Key to Correspondents.

Lowell: James Russell Lowell. Key to Correspondents. Ashfield was the home of Jewett correspondent Sara Norton, daughter of Lowell's friend, Harvard University Professor Charles Eliot Norton. Which speech Lowell delivered there has not yet been determined. In Lowell's letters there is evidence that he gave dinner speeches at Ashfield in the summers of 1885 and 1888 (25 August). See for example *Letters of James Russell Lowell*, 1893, p. 298.

E.M.T. : American poet, Edith Matilda Thomas (1854-1925), "Mifs Thomas." Key to Correspondents.

It seems likely that Thomas had noted "old poems" by Fields that appeared in *Harper's Magazine*, perhaps "Humility" in January and "The Folding" in June 1883.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Additional Correspondence, 100 letters from Annie Adams Fields, bMS Am 1743.1 Box 1, Item 33.

Annie Adams Fields to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Manchester by the Sea. Sunday.

[*August/September 1883*]*

My dear friend:

There are two or three little things I want to speak of before I come to the point of my note —

And first, Mr. Houghton* has kindly said sometimes to "Sadie" if not to me that he would gladly get any books for her she wanted even if they were not published by the house.

I have just written to Mr. Garrison* for two books from their list, but we are spoiling for lack of a few

[*Page 2*]

others and I am sure you will know who to ask to get them for us — without letting us give you personally too much trouble. We want

The Life of Mary Lamb by Miss Gilchrist

Vol. II of Les Deux Masques by Paul St. Victor*

and I should like to know if the life of St. Teresa* is to be had — translated from the Spanish ^into French by the [*unrecognized word* Abbé *?*] Bouix.^ I fear it is a large and costly book in which case I do not wish to buy it without consideration — but we want the two first.

Also by mistake a check for twenty dollars was sent for Chrysalides* instead of thirty as was agreed between us.

[*Page 3*]

I should be glad to have the money ^instead of a check^ sent, by express inside of the books and I will return [this *corrected from* the] check at once.

All this is giving you a great deal of trouble and I will turn to something I like better.

First, Mrs Bayard Taylor* has written me that she is coming, kindly, to pass a day or two here — I cannot tell you how sorry I have been not to see you both all summer and I hope either while she is here or at some other time you may be able to come.

Also the excellent John Gilbert* of histrionic fame sits in his chair and reads your poems and dreams that one day you will pass his door and look in!

[*Page 4*]

Also Sadie has plans of a day with you when times and seasons are favorable.

A brief note from Mr. Matthew Arnold* yesterday tells me he is really coming to Boston and will be the guest of Rev. Phillips Brooks.*

Sadie asks me to tell you with her love to both, that we have been delighted today with Mifs Thomas's paper —*

With many loving thoughts of Lilian and "the boys" believe me always tenderly

yours

Annie Fields.

Mr. Whittier* has just sent me a beautiful little poem, or sonnet on the Story of Ida.

Notes

September 1883: As indicated in the notes below, Fields must have written this letter in 1883, after the appearance of the September number of *Atlantic Monthly*.

Sadie: A nickname for Sarah Orne Jewett used by the Aldriches, Jewett and Fields, a reference to the American actress Sadie Martinot. Key to Correspondents.

Houghton: Henry Oscar Houghton of Houghton, Mifflin. Key to Correspondents.

Garrison: Frederick Jackson Garrison. Key to Correspondents.

Victor: *Mary Lamb* by Anne Gilchrist was published in 1883. Mary Lamb (1764-1847) was a British author, sister of author Charles Lamb (1775-1834).

Les Deux Masques by French author Paul Bins, comte de Saint-Victor (1827-1881), on the history of drama, was not completed. Volume 2 on Aeschylus appeared in about 1881.

Teresa: Almost certainly, Fields refers to *Histoire de Sainte Thérèse d'après les Bollandistes, ses divers historians, et ses oeuvres complètes*, published in Paris in 1883, translated by Marcel Bouix (1806-1889). Bouix was a French Jesuit author and translator.

Chrysalides: Fields's poem of this title appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in September 1883.

Mrs Bayard Taylor: Maria Hansen Taylor (1829-1925), widow of the American poet Bayard Taylor (1825-1878). Mrs. Taylor was collaborating with Jewett correspondent Horace Scudder in compiling material for *Life and Letters of Bayard Taylor* (1885).

John Gilbert: Probably the American stage actor, John Gibbs Gilbert (1810-1889). See Fields to Thomas Bailey Aldrich of August/September 1883.

Mr. Matthew Arnold: British poet and critic, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), visited the United States in October 1883-March 1884.

Rev. Phillips Brooks: Key to Correspondents.

Mifs Thomas's paper: American author, Edith M. Thomas (1854-1925) published "Along an Inland Beach" in the September 1883 *Atlantic Monthly*.

Mr. Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier's sonnet, "Story of Ida," was published in 1884. The poem includes this note: "Francesca Alexander, whose pen and pencil have so reverently transcribed the simple faith and life of the Italian peasantry, wrote the narrative published with John Ruskin's introduction under the title, *The Story of Ida*." See Lucia Gray Swett Alexander in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: MS Am 1429, Box 6, Items 1446-1538.

Annie Adams Fields to Lilian Aldrich

Friday night —

[*August*/*September 1883*]*

[*Begin letterhead*]

148. Charles Street,

Boston.

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Lilian:

You are very kind to ask Lizzy* and me on Monday!, but she leaves me on Sunday or Monday morning and it will be impossible for us to come. You will forgive no answer from her own hand, but she sends you her love by me. She is resting just now.

I have been hoping to get again to your door to ask how your cold is. Perhaps another

[*Page 2*]

change of air will cure it entirely —

I enjoyed my visit from the pillar of one side of your hearth on Wednesday and he made a pleasant festival for the dear Gilberts* and went off, in spite

[*Page 3*]

of incipient deafness and inabilities in quite a beatific state of mind. I do not know a more really excellent and simple=hearted old [couple

corrected] than they, and I wish they may live long to come to Manchester again where you may yet see them.

Affectionately yours

Annie Fields.

Notes

August/*September 1883*: This date is only a guess, because it may be associated with a letter of this date to Lilian Aldrich that mentions John Gilbert. See note below.

Lizzy: Field's sister, Elizabeth Adams. See Fields in Key to Correspondents.

Gilberts: Probably Fields refers to the American stage actor, John Gibbs Gilbert (1810-1889).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Thomas Bailey Aldrich Papers, MS Am 1429, Box 6, Items 1446-1538.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Sunday. August 20th '83

Manchester by the Sea.

My kind friend:

How beautiful the sonnet is! How worthy of the pure and touching story! Can I say more! And what a pleasure to hear from your Francesca* herself.

"Our blessed Sarah"* was indeed here I am grateful to say when your note arrived yesterday while the air was heavy with signs of the coming tempest and we had been considering the delightful idea of

[*Page 2*]

coming over to see you.

A note from Mrs Bayard Taylor* saying that she would kindly come to pass a day or two with me, makes it a little doubtful if we can come this week, but we are looking forward to doing [so *changed from* say] very soon.

Please say to Mrs Woodman and her sisters and Phoebe that Mrs Thaxter met them so near to this, that I hope they will stop the next time they take such a long drive that they

[*Page 3*]

may rest themselves and the horse for an hour or two, and that we may see them. I was rejoiced to see Celia looking so well. The signs of the blow had almost passed away. I think though of Karl and the continual difficulties she encounters for him and with him, are worse for her strength than the fall.

She gathers great courage and peace and endurance with her new faith — It is beautiful to see.

A marvellous new book

[*Page 4*]

has swum into my ken — "Esoteric Buddhism"! A very hard name, but it is not so hard as the mysteries with which it deals; and yet there is a great deal of wondrous light in the book. I shall try to bring it when I come.

Please remember us both to Mrs Cortland* when you write — We shall not forget her, nor our beautiful visit to you Among the Hills* —

Once more the Sonnet. It was a great kindness to copy it for me!

Affectionately yours

Annie Fields.

Notes

Francesca: John Greenleaf Whittier's sonnet, "Story of Ida," was published in 1884. The poem includes this note: "Francesca Alexander, whose pen and pencil have so reverently transcribed the simple faith and life of the Italian peasantry, wrote the narrative published with John Ruskin's introduction under the title, *The Story of Ida*." See Lucia Gray Swett Alexander in Key to Correspondents.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Taylor: Maria Hansen Taylor (1829-1925), widow of the American poet Bayard Taylor (1825-1878). Wikipedia.

Woodman ... Phoebe ... Thaxter: Phebe Woodman (1869-1953) was the adopted daughter of Whittier's cousin Abby Johnson Woodman (1828-1921).

Celia Thaxter and her son, Karl, Key to Correspondents. Regarding Thaxter's "blow," see her letters relating to her accident in July 1883.

"Esoteric Buddhism": Alfred Percy Sinnett (1849-1921), *Esoteric Buddhism* (Houghton Mifflin 1883).

Among the Hills: Whittier's poem, "Among the Hills," appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (January 1868). It was dedicated to Annie Fields. It was revised and expanded for inclusion in Whittier's collection, *Among the Hills* (1868).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at the Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Thursday.

[*23 August 1883*]*

My dear friend:

Mrs Taylor and her daughter will stay with me until Saturday afternoon and I need not say how much I wish we could have you here also.

But if this prove impossible Sarah and I would like to drive over First Day in the afternoon if you do not prefer to

[*Page 2*]

be alone on that day. If we hear nothing and do not have the happiness of seeing you before that time, we shall hope to come to you on the best day the week holds.

It is a great pleasure to have Mrs Taylor here. She is delicate and a few days by this north

[*Page 3*]*

Sea will do her good{.}

Affectionately yours

Annie Fields.

I open my note to add that I wish you could feel like coming to us if only for Mrs Taylor's sake — and you know we are sure to come to you another First Day, but I know the difficulties — only we should be very glad.

Notes

1883: Almost certainly, this is the letter to which Whittier responded on 24 August 1883 in a letter to Fields. Fields's visitor was Maria Hansen Taylor (1829-1925), widow of the American poet Bayard Taylor (1825-1878). Her daughter was Lilian Bayard Taylor Kiliani (1858-1940), author with her mother of a 1905 memoir, *On Two Continents*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Danvers

8th Mo 24 [*1883*]*

My dear friend

[Ever since *?*] learning by thy letter that Mrs Taylor* was to be with you I have wished to go over to Manchester & should have done so ere this, but I have been ill — "under the weather", and

[*Page 2*]

quite unable to leave home. Will thee give my best love to her, and assure her that I am very sorry to miss of seeing her & her daughter. No one I think, outside of his immediate family loved our dear Bayard more truly than myself & my beloved sister.

I need not tell thee that I shall be delighted to see

[*Page 3*]

you here on [first *?*] day. No day is too good for your coming. If it should be bad weather on that day we should expect you when the first fair day offers.

With love [to *?*] Sarah;* ever affectionately thy friend

John G. Whittier

[*Top left margin of page 1*]

I am reading " [*unrecognized name; the given name possibly is* Eusebio] {."}

Notes

1883: A Huntington Library archivist has tentatively placed this letter in 1883. That is a reasonable choice. In April of the following year, Mrs. Bayard Taylor was collaborating with Jewett correspondent Horace Scudder in compiling material for *Life and Letters of Bayard Taylor* (1885).

Penciled at the top center of page 1: "13". Also penciled on p. 2, in the left margin next to the mention of "dear Bayard": "X". Other somewhat random marks, possibly in pencil, appear on the first two pages.

Mrs. Taylor: Maria Hansen Taylor (1829-1925), widow of the American poet Bayard Taylor (1825-1878). Her daughter was Lilian Bayard Taylor Kiliani (1858-1940), author with her mother of a 1905 memoir, *On Two Continents*.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4701.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields Fragment

[Monday *?*] morning

[*27 August 1883*]*

My dear friend

In the brief but delightful visit of thyself & dear Sarah Jewett yesterday, I did not have time to explain about the "Sparhawk* problem!". Dr. S. was a descendant on his father's side of Sir Wm Pepperell, & Sir Wm Sparhawk; on his mother's of Col [Humphrey's *so written*] Washington's friend & Secretary. He [practiced *corrected*] for 25 or 30 years in Amesbury. — — one of the purest [heart *?*], most Christ-like of men. He had a large practice, but

[*Page 2*]

his peculiar religious vision made it impossible for him to accumulate property. He had the love of everybody. I think I told Sarah of his two old aunts & a cousin, tall erect, graceful old women — whom he supported, — learned, skilled in embroidery and half the modern languages but otherwise utterly incapable. His wife was a Scotch lady daughter of Dr. Campbell a famous physician of the aristocratic class, near Edinburgh. He died some eight or ten years ago. The people of Amesbury & Salisbury erected a beautiful monument of granite to his memory, with the inscription" "The beloved physician"{.}

[*Page 3*]

He left his daughters Lucy & Fanny and an adopted daughter whose father was his cousin Col Sparhawk of Kittery. All are well educated. Lucy is capable in household matters though not very strong. Fanny graduated at [Ipswich *?*] at the head of the school; she taught school for a time in Newburyport, but I think was not quite efficient in discipline though her scholarly qualifications were excellent. ~~Dr~~ She is a thoroughly good & conscientious girl. She engaged herself for a year as a governess, in a family near Boston, and I obtained for her a place in the Exeter N.H. Female Seminary,* but she thought she could not accept it because her year was not yet out — and so lost the chance! — she then tried authorship but thus far without success. Though she occasionally gets something from the "Cottage Hearth". Dr Bowditch* & myself

[*Page 4*]

have done all in our power for the family. They have a house in [Newbury *?*] but heavily mortgaged, the rent of which pays the taxes & interest on the mortgage leaves little or nothing for them. The house they occupy is also mortgaged{.} Jenny the adopted daughter I think has some [schooling *?*] in painting, &c. and their boarder — the invalid — I spoke of pays $6 or $7. per week.

As Dr B. has mentioned the case to thee, I have made this explanation of it. If thee know or hear of anything which Fanny could do, — as a teacher, or in a library, it would be a great relief to all of us. But I am half ashamed of myself for saying a word to thee about the matter. Thee have already got all the forlorn & incapable of Boston on thy shoulders, and why should I add another to thy burdens? If thee happen to meet Dr Bowditch

[*Missing material*]

Notes

1883: Huntington Library archivists have speculated an 1882 date for this letter, and that seems likely to be close. Whittier probably did not make this appeal for help before Fields and Jewett traveled to Europe in the spring and summer of 1882, mindful of Fields's grieving her husband's death in 1881. Whittier places Dr. Sparhawk's 1874 death "eight or ten years ago," indicating that he writes in 1884 or earlier. Whittier notes that at the time of this letter, Dr. Sparhawk's daughter, Frances, had not yet established herself as an author, though she had published. Her first novel, *A Lazy Man's Work*, appeared in 1881, but her publishing career did not blossom until 1884, as more of her work began to appear in periodicals and books. Her later work included *Whittier, the Poet and the Man* (1892).

See also Fields to Whittier to Fields of 29 August, tentatively dated to 1883.

Sparhawk: Dr. Thomas Sparhawk (1806-1874) was much loved in Amesbury, his gravestone as Whittier reports erected by the community. His wife was Elizabeth Campbell Sparhawk (1817-1867). She may have been the daughter of the Scottish surgeon, John Campbell (1784-1867), who fits Whittier's description well, but she is not listed among his children at Find a Grave. See "Materials for a Genealogy of the Sparhawk Family in New England" (pp. 79-83).

Their surviving daughters were Lucy Sparhawk (1841-1893) and the author Frances Campbell Sparhawk (1847-1930). See also Wikipedia.

Their adopted daughter, Jenny, was Eunice Jane Sparhawk (1848-1915). Her father was Colonel George Sparhawk, who died in Kittery in 1857, with one surviving child, Eunice Jane. See "Materials for a Genealogy of the Sparhawk Family in New England," p. 78.

In his will, Whittier left $500 each to Lucy and Jenny.

The aunts and cousin whom Sparhawk supported have not yet been identified.

Whittier traces Sparhawk's ancestry to Sir William Pepperell (1696-1759), an American colonial merchant and soldier, whose daughter married into the Sparhawk family, and to David Humphreys (1752-1818), American Revolutionary War colonel who was General George Washington's *aide de camp*.

Dr. Bowditch: Dr. Henry I. Bowditch (1808-1892), Massachusetts physician and abolitionist.

Female Seminary: Exeter, NH was home to the Robinson Female Seminary, established in 1867.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4669.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Wednesday — August 29th [*1883*]*

Manchester by the Sea.

My dear friend:

The wind is howling round our hill=top this morning with a message from the coming storm. It seems a long time since that lovely afternoon we passed with you under the trees. How sunny and beautiful the world was! As we drove home in the sunset everything took on a new glory which shone in part from the face of the friend we had left behind.

We, and the apples! reached home in excellent season and in good condition. The latter

[*Page 2*]

are excellent and I am sure you will thank Phoebe* for getting them in our behalf.

Your letters yesterday gave Sarah* and me great pleasure. I am glad to have the particulars of Mifs Sparhawk's history and it will be a satisfaction and not a trouble to take some steps by and by to find a niche for her.

What a lovely letter this is from Francesca* — One might envy her the simple way in which she has been able

[*Page 3*]

not only to express herself generally, but to thank you — Others have felt it but it was left for her to speak in behalf of the many who in sorrow and exile have been comforted by your words.

If you happen to fall in with the Essays of F. W. H. Myers* who is a member of the society for "Psychical Research!" in London, you will find a recognition of the

[*Page 4*]

new evidences we have spoken of together; particularly in the volume called "Modern Essays" in one on "Renan" and in the one called ["Classical" *corrected*] in the "Great oracles" — If you would like to look the books over by and by I will gladly send more ~~over~~ to Danvers.

Dear Sarah sends her love with mine. Her beautiful household companionship is a gift to me ^for which^ I can never be grateful enough!

Ever dear friend

your affectionate

Annie Fields —

Notes

1883: The year of the publication of Myer's book of essays (see note below), and when 29 August fell on a Thursday.

Despite the folder's location in the Pickard-Whittier papers, the Houghton catalog identifies no recipient for this letter, but the contents clearly show it was addressed to Whittier. Note for example the reference to Phebe (Phoebe).

Phoebe: Phebe Woodman (1869-1953) was the adopted daughter of Whittier's cousin Abby Johnson Woodman (1828-1921).

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sparhawk's history: See Whittier to Fields of Monday August 1883, for Whittier's account of the troubles of the Sparhawk family.

Francesca: Frances / Fanny "Francesca" Alexander (1837-1917). See Lucia Gray Swett Alexander in Key to Correspondents. Whittier wrote to Fields about her in his letter of 23 July 1883.

Myers: British author, scholar and critic, Frederic William Henry Myers (1843-1901). His two-volume collections, *Essays Classical* and *Essays Modern* appeared in 1883. The first included a long chapter entitled "Greek Oracles"; the second "Ernst Renan." Wikipedia notes that he was a founder of the British Society for Psychical Research, concerned with the scientific study of paranormal activity.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Box: 12 Identifier: MS Am 1844, Box 12: 796-7**.** Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 15 letters to unidentified persons.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

Sunday evening

[*Summer 1883*]*

Dear Mary

What a cool lovely weather we are having! I wish it had come while Alice* was here though we had a great dust storm before the rain yesterday and a big wind that snapped off a great bough of the maple by Carrie's* front door — it proved to have been rotting down into the cleft and might have fallen on somebody so lets be thankful it didn't. Annie* rose the garret stairs and shut the windows and scuttle while I was down here so we didn't get so much dust as we otherwise might. And then came the most lovely long and big shower so that the garden is all as fresh as can be. I wish you could see it. I have not regularly walked the piece but have seen the [vegatable *so transcribed*] part twice on Princess'* account. She is doing nicely. I went to the Dennetts, partly on Dicky's account* this afternoon and he seemed to be indifferent to the pleasures of the occasion. I drove the first part of the time and then gave the reins to Charles* and I hoped he might be brisker coming home, but no Mary, your Dicky had lost a Shoe and so Charles didn't think it best to urge him, and it took us a good while but I enjoyed it and feel much obliged by the lending. Tomorrow shall be Jane's Day. *

John* is doing nicely. I called after Church this morning and then I went into Carries to dinner, and we ate no end of a proper watermelon, and I stayed until I went to drive. Carrie and I broke the sabbath* rearranging some of her books. She and Theodore went out with Susan.* I asked John if it wouldn't do to put Dicky in the light double wagon but I wasn't let….

There was a piece about John in the Free Press and Mr. Sewall* has called again. So all is well. I am going now to make my evening call. The girls are well. Annie requested Longfellow's poems to read about Martha Wentworth* and then passed the afternoon over the Rambles about Portsmouth to her great satisfaction. Mr. Lewis has gone to Gorham* and a funny little man preached. I dont know who he was. A pleasant Sister cant think of anymore to say but sends much love to you and to both Aunt Marys.*

Yours affectionately

Sarah

Notes

Summer 1883: This highly speculative date is based upon Jewett speaking of her horse, Princess, who was mentioned in an 1882 letter. As Jewett was in Europe in summer and autumn of 1882, I have tentatively placed this letter in the following year.

Alice: Jewett had several close friends named Alice. Without more information, it is difficult to determine which one has been visiting. Perhaps Alice Greenwood Howe? See Thaxter to Fields of 16 September and Key to Correspondents.

Carrie: Caroline Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

Annie: Annie Collins. Key to Correspondents.

Princess: It appears Jewett has been finding treats for a Jewett horse in the vegetable garden, perhaps carrots? Jewett mentions Princess in a letter of 17 August 1882, writing from Europe, indicating that she misses this horse.

Charles: Which Charles this may be from among Jewett's acquaintance remains a mystery. As he is driving a Jewett horse, it appears he may be an employee, but he is not mentioned in other Jewett letters known at the time of this editing.

Dennetts ... on Dicky's account: It appears Jewett has taken a long drive to the Dennett farm, which Pirsig, in *ThePlacenamesof South Berwick* (p. 210), identifies as the "oldest continuously operated family farm" in the area. Dicky seems to be a horse belonging to Mary Rice Jewett.

Jane: Another Jewett family horse, perhaps referred to in other letters as Jane Ann.

John: John Tucker, who appears to be indisposed, which may account for Charles working as a driver. Key to Correspondents.

broke the sabbath: See Exodus 20: 8-11. The fourth of the the 10 Commandments says that no one in the household should do any work on the seventh day of the week.

Susan: This cannot be certain, but a Jewett cousin living in South Berwick was Susan Jameson Jewett (1857-1954). Her mother was named Sarah Orne Jewett (1820-1864), as was a sister who died in infancy (1864-5). See Pirsig, "The Jewetts of Portland Street" (2004).

piece about John in the Free Press and Mr. Sewall: The publication about John Tucker has not been located.

Mr. Sewall is likely a Jewett neighbor, Jotham Sewall (1847-1922). See Pirsig, *The Placenames of South Berwick*, p. 75. His sister, also a regular visitor, was Helen D. Sewall (1845-1922). Another sister in the same household was Jane Sewall. The Sewell Genealogy says:

> Rev. Jotham Sewall was born on 21 March 1847 in Robbinston, Maine. He was the son of Rev. David Brainerd Sewall and Mary Drummond. Rev. Jotham Sewall appears on the census of 1870 at the Theological Seminary, Bangor, Maine, though his age is given as 28 in the return. He appears on the census of 1900 at South Berwick, Maine, where his occupation is noted as that of a musician. His passport application in 1905 refines his occupation to that of an organist. He appears on the census of 1910 at South Berwick, Maine, living together with his sisters Jane and Helen. He died on 20 November 1932 at the age of 85 and is buried in First Parish Cemetery of York, Maine.

Longfellow's poems … Martha Wentworth ... Rambles about Portsmouth: The American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882), wrote "Lady Wentworth" about Martha Wentworth, second wife of Benning Wentworth (1696-1770), the colonial governor of New Hampshire (1741-1766). This marriage was something of a scandal in part because she was much younger, but probably more because she had been Wentworth's housekeeper and, by marrying him, rose to the aristocracy.

Charles W. Brewster (1802-1869) wrote *Rambles about Portsmouth*, collections of newspaper columns about the history and personalities of Portsmouth, NH.

Mr. Lewis: Pastor George Lewis. Key to Correspondents.

both Aunt Marys: Women whom Jewett addressed as "Aunt Mary" included: Mary Olivia Gilman Long and Mary E. Gray (Mrs. Charles) Bell. See Mary Long in Key to Correspondents. Mary Rice Jewett, then, is apparently at Little Boar's Head in Rye, MA.

This text is from transcriptions from mixed repositories in the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Undated Letters, Folder 75, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett

Tuesday.

[*Summer 1883 ?*]*

Dear and sweet friend, what do you say to going back to first principles, and making our business transaction a matter of old-fashioned barter?

Or to speak in plain terms, will you do me a very splendid favor, & lend me your hands for the [music- *?*]

[*Page 2*]

cal study I am painting? — It is asking a great deal of you, dear: but I think if I could have two hours' sitting, I could [do *corrected*] it — & yours is the hand I have been looking for for a month!

You see I could n't

[*Page 3*]

ask this of you, if I did not trust to your saying no, in case you were too busy or would rather not — but if it chance to please your fancy & your conscience, any hour of Thursday or Friday I am yours to command.

Meantime may my

[*Page 3*]

messenger bring back a copy of Country By-Ways*, if you have one here — and the thickness* will be in about what relation to it?

I go to town today. I was in [three *?*] cities yesterday: but tomorrow I hope for leisure —— to work in !

Yours faithfully, & with greeting to the Lady of the hill.*

SWW

Notes

Summer 1883: Notes penciled at the top left of page 1 speculate that the date of this letter is 1884 or 1883. The earlier date is supported by Whitman's asking for a copy of *Country By-Ways*, presumably in order to aid in designing her first cover for a Jewett title, *The Mate of the Daylight* (1884).

Country By-Ways: Jewett's story and sketch collection, *Country By-Ways*, appeared in 1881.

thickness: One may speculate that Whitman is working on a cover for one of Jewett's books that will follow *Country By-Ways*. If the proposed date of 1883 is correct, it seems likely that Whitman refers to *The Mate of the Daylight*, Whitman's first cover for a Jewett book, designed in the latter half of 1883.

Lady of the Hill: Annie Adams Fields, whose summer home in Manchester by the Sea, MA, stood on Thunderbolt Hill. Whitman probably alludes to the allegory by British author John Bunyan (1628-1688), *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678), in which the Palace Beautiful on the Hill of Difficulty is guarded by a beautiful lady named "Discretion." Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Whitman, Sarah (Wyman) 1842-1904. 92 letters; [1884]-[1903] & [n.d.] Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 - 107.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Saturday Sept. 8th 1883

Manchester by the Sea.

My dear friend:

Mrs Ole Bull* came to pass a few hours with me this week and I asked her about Mr. [Jansen *?*].* She said he was doing good work and was of course greatly in need just now.

She promised to write him at once and enclose our subscriptions with her own. Do you prefer to write him yourself, if so she will forward your letter, otherwise

[*2*]

I am sure she will say what is necessary.

Dear Sarah* has gone today to Shelter Island to pass a few days with her friends the Horsfords.* Did I tell you that she has suddenly decided to finish a volume of her collected stories at Christmas time? This, hurried her away from here a few days ago in order to get the material together.

Meantime Lowell's daughter Mabel Burnett and her two boys have been here making me a visit. She was taken ill

[*3*]

and after a few days in bed the Dr. thought it wise for her to return home. The boys are fine young revolutionists to judge by the way they flung about such ammunition as they could find, bed=room pillows, clothing, etc. I wonder children do not despair at the sight of their diminutive clean shirts to be buttoned and unbuttoned and furnished with studs!

Today in the silence which succeeds I have been reading this new life of Mary Lamb by Mrs Gilchrist — I thought we had read almost enough about the Lambs but the old charm returned with these new pages

[*4*]

and I was ashamed at my own half reluctance to open the book. I thought of you as I turned each page and if you have not seen the book I should like someday to send it over. There are some new things in it, and the dear old ones can never grow stale.

We cannot forget our beautiful Sunday with you — I wondered as I drove up the avenue and the old memories thronged about me, how and why I should be there, but it was soon explained and the bitterness* passed away.

There is a note of autumn in the sea winds today which has a call all its own —

Affectionately yours

Annie Fields

I am to send you a copy of a very prosaic little book* in a day or two.

Notes

Bull: Sarah Chapman Thorp Bull. Key to Correspondents.

Jansen: This transcription is uncertain, and this person has not yet been identified.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Horsfords: The family of Eben Norton Horsford. Key to Correspondents.

collected stories: Jewett's collection, *The Mate of the Daylight* (1884), appeared at the end of 1883.

Burnett: Mabel Lowell Burnett. Key to Correspondents.

Lamb ... Gilchrist: British author Mary Anne Lamb (1764-1847). *Mary Lamb* by Anne Burrows Gilchrist appeared in 1883.

bitterness: Probably, Fields was remembering previous visits in the company of her deceased husband.

little book: In 1883, Fields published *How to Help the Poor*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Farm. Sept 9th. [*1883*]*

Your little note came last night, dearest Annie, & I was so sorry [that *corrected or possibly deleted*] you have an anxiety — poor Mabel,* I trust she is well by this — your note was mailed the 6th, 3 days ago, — well, or much better, at least one might hope. I wrote to you soon as I got here — I left my dear parlor entirely stripped bare & ready to be made larger. Your photographer of interiors had been there & taken its pretty & orderly confusion & when I get a copy thereof I will send it to you. They say the pictures are a great success, but it was such a bad wild day when he came & every thing looked idiotic to me — I fear I shan't think them satisfactory.

I don't remember what I wrote in my hurried note & may repeat myself — I hope & trust the [idyl *so spelled*] of the kitchen which I told you of in the spring, is safely over & past. Annie* seems all right & has a good

[*Page 2*]

little maid to help her & so life is comparatively easy for her. She has improved greatly in her work & ~~her~~ her cooking is very good, her bread quite wonderful. So those worries are eased, (her overworking & her romance!) & a new set begin with John* & his troubles — ah me! But I look at Roland with grateful heart — last year he was filling my soul with anxiety — Poor [Karl *corrected*] is happy to be here. I suppose sometime next month will see us at the W.* house again — I hope so. But what John is going to do with his lonely winter! There is a problem!

I fancy you looking out on this so cold blue N.-W.-wind-swept sea today, leagues farther down the coast. I think the N. W. wind is the most [depressing *corrected*] wind that blows, if it blows hard, as today, & your hilltop must get it full in the face. I found this dear poem in the last Littell.* I suppose you have it too, but perhaps you haven't, so I send

[*Up the right margin of page 2*]

it with my dearest love, you sweet Annie — Send me another word soon, I beg{.} I shall look eagerly every day for it.

Your most loving

C.

Notes

1883: Thaxter's reference to Mabel Burnett's illness connects this letter with Fields to Whittier of 8 September 1883. That her son Roland caused her anxiety the previous year probably refers to his serious knee injury that led to surgery in 1882.

Mabel: Mabel Lowell Burnett. Key to Correspondents. See Fields to Whittier of 8 September 1883.

Annie: Probably a new employee at the Thaxter farm.

John: Karl, John and Roland are Thaxter's three sons.

W.: Winthrop House, on Bowdoin Street in Boston, a quiet and inexpensive hotel used by John Greenleaf Whittier and other literary visitors to Boston.

Littell: The poetry page (514) in the 1 September 1883 issue of *Littell's The Living Age* included "Towton Roses," "The Dream" and "Sister, Awake," published anonymously, and "In Summer Fields," by Mary Harrison. It seems more likely that Thaxter would share with Fields one of the poems from the 8 September issue (p. 578). "Haytime" is an anonymous celebratory poem set in rural England. "At Eventide" expresses yearning for a deceased friend. "At Rest" by Sarah Doudney addresses a dove resting in a quiet nest after a weary day, the speaker wishing for a similar rest.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

Sarah Wyman Whitman to Sarah Orne Jewett

Thursday ~~Friday~~ night.

[*Fall 1883*]*

I [send *?*] the design, dear, as you see — & will you keep ^it^ attached to some flat surface to [prevent *?*] the pencil [work *or* mark] from rubbing, please.

Tell me of anything you dont like, & I'll try to make it better.

And now I want to tell ^you^ how completely

[*Page 2*]

we put ourselves in a ['Heaven of tendency' *?*] when we dropped our anchor. This afternoon I said to my coachman that I would go to Manchester & see if I could [but *or* just *?*] find a coal-scow at the wharves, for I wanted to see a big anchor.* So we started, & within a short distance of my house, what do you think I met? a man driving a waggon, with a six-foot anchor on board! — <u>There it was</u>. You can fancy me in the middle of the road regarding it: the man most hospitable (he would have given it to me if <u>I</u>* could have taken it —)

[*Page 3*]

Henry the coachman radiant with satisfaction. — the passers-by quite mad with curiosity.

The result is at least unlike the primal fish-hook — but as I say, I'll do your bidding dear, & alter it [*unrecognized word*] if this seems not to have come from that [furnace *?*] where were "forged the anchors of your hope".*

Yours faithfully & gratefully

<u>Sw</u>

Notes

Fall 1883: Though Jewett's book mentioned here, *The Mate of the Daylight*, has an 1884 publication date, its copyright date is 1883. The earliest reviews appeared in December 1883. Whitman must have been working on the cover design during the latter half of 1883.

anchor: Whitman almost certainly is working on the design for Jewett's story collection, *The Mate of the Daylight* (1884), which features an anchor on the cover.

if <u>I</u>: Whitman has written the "I" above the rest of the line and seems to have underlined it. It is difficult to be sure what she intended.

anchors of your hope: This phrase is from the final section of "The Building of the Ship" (1849), by the American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Whitman, Sarah (Wyman) 1842-1904. 92 letters; [1884]-[1903] & [n.d.] Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence, 1868-1930. MS Am 1743.1 - 107.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Kittery Point.

Sept 16th (83

Dearest Annie:

Your lovely book & your note with the dear poem* both came — a thousand thanks as ever! And Pinny's* letter — do thank her for it, with love. And you are not going to town till the 9th Oct? Well, that isn't so far off! I am so busy with all kinds of things & in my soul a thousand worries upon which I sit with my whole weight so that they shall not sit upon me! — Isn't the drought dreadful, good people? We are reduced to such straits

2

for a drop of water! 'Tis some thing terrible!

O Annie, do write to me dear. You dont half often enough! I have almost cracked my head over Esoteric Buddhism* — Ye God! Have I been spilled from globe to globe since time began? It is too much to think of. ——— I am so sorry to hear of Alice Howe's* illness — poor thing — Some day she'll slip away.

It fogs & fogs — the sea rushes up the sand, the marshes yellow; the crow begins to call loud in the early mornings — Last week a great flock of wild geese flew over, [clauking *?*], toward the south. The whole family turned out to look at them — I am

3

dreading leaving my John* here all winter, with an inexpressible dread — I shall not probably go to town to settle till 1st Nov. Roland goes up to the Medical School 25th this month — Thank heaven he is on his feet! But I am anxious for him too. And ever ever anxious for Karl. Thank Heaven I have no more children!

Goodbye dear love. I am ever Yours & Pinny's

Sandpiper —

Notes

lovely book ... dear poem: Fields's new book would be *Howto Help the Poor* (1883). In September 1883, Fields published her poem "Chrysalides" in *Atlantic Monthly*. She collected it in *The Singing Shepherd* (1895).

Pinny's: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Esoteric Buddhism: Alfred Percy Sinnett (1849-1921), *Esoteric Buddhism* (Houghton Mifflin 1883).

Alice Howe's: Alice Greenwood Howe. Key to Correspondents.

John: Karl, John and Roland are Thaxter's three sons.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Sep. 19. 1883

Manchester

My dear friend:

I have been waiting a day or two in order to send to Boston and get a clear idea of what I had just now to pay my way with and I find I also can spare five hundred dollars. I am the more anxious to do this because if you remember Lucy* was to have a part of our property after I have done with it, and in the course of nature this will

[*2*]

^not^ be likely to do her any good. Therefore I prefer to give her this sum now at once.

Also Mrs Hemenway will send fifty dollars, Mrs Silsbee twenty=five and Mrs Bell something. (I believe).

Will this make up the required amount to buy the annuity [*deletion*] giving her ^at^ nine per [cent *corrected*] an income of one hundred dollars? Of course you will arrange it in your own wise way so that she will know nothing of my [part *corrected*] or ^of^ the other

[*3*]

ladies; for I think it would pain Lucy [irrecoverably *?*]{.} She never will know till she gets to another world how she has been lifted over the drudgeries of life by the good women with whom she has boarded and by other friends who have tried to give her literary work as a kind of bridge over her difficulties. The revelation would give her more suffering now than she ought or need to have; but one day it will be made plain to her in

[*4*]

the best way I am sure.

We cannot help feeling anxious about the election.* Have you seen gleams of light yet?

I shall remain here while the weather is good but by the middle of October certainly I shall hope to be altogether established and at work again in town.

I presume my little book* is lying in wait for you either at Amesbury or Danvers.

Affectionately yours

Annie Fields.

Notes

Lucy: Lucy Larcom (1824-1893). See Fields to Whittier of 19 September 1883.

Hemenway ...Silsbee ... Bell: Mary Porter Tileston Hemenway (1820-1894), according to Wikipedia, was an American philanthropist.

In Key to Correspondents, see Marianne Cabot Devereux Silsbee and Helen Olcott Choate Bell.

election: Fields refers to the bitterly contested Massachusetts gubernatorial election of 1883. Whittier's candidate, George D. Robinson prevailed.

book: In 1883, Fields published *How to Help the Poor*.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Danvers

9th Mo, 22 1883*

My dear friend

I thank thee a thousand times for thy kind & liberal response in LL's* favor, & also the good ladies who add their [care and patience *?*]. Of course, the thing must be carefully managed. I shall have

[*Page 2*]

^to^ ascertain exactly [L. *so written*] age and may have to get the information from her, but I shall briefly say a certain [sum *?*], from a source which I cannot name, even to her, has been put in my hands for an annuity. I think $1100 will give her $100. [*unrecognized word or words*] now, which will be a great help to her.

[*Page 3*]

I have been ill all the week. I went to Boston to vote in the Convocation,* though unfit to do so. After four utterly sleepless nights, I got some sleep last night, & this morning feel to say with Sancho Panza:* "Blessings on the man who invented sleep!"* I shall pity Elizth Phelps* more than ever, [after *corrected*] 120 hours of sleeplessness.

I have read

[*Page 4*]

thy admirable book* with deep interest, and with increased regard for its author. I hope & [*unrecognized word*] its noble plea for aid in the good work will be promptly answered. God bless thee dear friend! I shall hope to see {thee} when thee are once more in the city. In the mean time I am as always affectionately

John G Whittier

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

I shall have to enquire into the annuity and will let thee know when the money will be needed.

Notes

1883: Whittier's handwriting renders the final digit of his date unreadable. This letter joins several others from Whittier to Fields, all with ambiguous dates, concerning establishing an annuity for Lucy Larcom. Other details in these letters confirm that most were written in the fall of 1883. Here, for example, Whittier mentions Fields's new book, *How to Help the Poor*. See notes below.

LL's: Lucy Larcom (1824-1893). See Fields to Whittier of 19 September 1883.

Convocation: One would expect Whittier to be attending a meeting of the Society of Friends, but usually he went to Portland, ME for these meetings. The convocation in which he voted while ill has not yet been identified. However, perhaps he wrote or intended "convention." In his letter, below, to Celia Thaxter of 9/27, he says he attended the Anti-Butler convention at about this time.

Sancho Panza: Panza expresses this sentiment in Part 2, Chapter 68 of *Don Quixote* by Spanish author, Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616).

Phelps: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward. Key to Correspondents. In "Art for Truth's Sake," Ronna C. Privett notes that Phelps suffered from insomnia throughout her life.

admirable book: Almost certainly *How to Help the Poor* (1883).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4797.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Champernowne' s Island

Kittery Point, Me

Sept. 23rd — (83

Best & dearest!

Glad was I, indeed, of your sweet note last night — I can see just how you are going on, you & Pinny Lawson!* I am as busy as the day is long, & actually having a lovely time sketching every minute I can get, = I long to show you the result of my efforts! —

I had a letter from Mrs Eichberg* last night — She says "At Insbruck,* at the [table d'hote *so spelled*] in the evening, somebody put [his *corrected*] arm round Mr Eichberg's neck, & who was it but Willie Beal!* Mr E. was so delighted to see him & kissed him over & over — We spent the evening in their room, it was such a pleasant evening! & she speaks with admiration of your sister Sarah who was with them —

Dear, your little book* has made a sensation in the Thaxter family — First Karl applied himself to it with enthusiasm — then John found it very interesting & Lony looked over it with interest too, & K. said it was the only thing that reconciled him to going to Boston, that he perhaps might be able to help you the least little bit! And oh & oh I have read every word of Esoteric Buddhism* &

[*Page 2*]

it is more interesting than any novel & tho' I occasionally had to grab my head with both hands, I finally got an idea of it — I should like to remember something of the lives I've lived before this one! O Annie, what a troublous life! As you say, if it were not for the thought of its brevity, it would be too much to wrestle with its difficulties — "Tangled webs"* indeed! I believe you! Yes, it is a comfort that we are going on together, you & I! You dear —

Did I tell you my Mina Berntsen took dear little Edwin, Thora's boy, who sells flowers all summer at the Shoals, to Montpelier, to Aunty Reed,* where he is really [established *corrected*] for the winter to go to school & learn all he can — It is such a great thing for him — —— Our well is dug & water abundant — we had one well before, but were obliged to dig still another — Out at the Shoals Cedric said they hadn't enough water for the baby to drink, so they set a gang of eight men at work there & made their well between twenty & 30 feet, & 14 feet across & that is a great thing for them — I expect to go out to the Shoals for a couple of days before going

[*Page 3*]

to town, to consult about the final arrangements of my room — Your man Lincoln,* has made a lovely photograph of it & when I get some copies shall send one to you —

must stop now — Do write soon again — With heaps & heaps & piles of love to you & dear Pinny I am your loving

Sandpiper

You can't imagine how my head* troubles me still! I really think I shall be obliged to seek a professional rubber when I get to town{.}

Notes

Mrs Eichberg: Julius Eichberg (1824-1893) was a German-born composer, musical director and educator in Boston. His wife was author, Sophie Mertens (d. 1927).

Thaxter has corrected "Insbruck," and she may have spelled it "Innsbruck," but this is not clear.

Willie Beal: William Fields Beal (1870-1939) is Fields's nephew, son of her sister, Louisa Jane Adams, who married James Henry Beal.

Mentioned later in this letter is Field's sister, author and translator, Sarah Holland Adams. Key to Correspondents.

little book: Fields's *How to Help the Poor* (1883).

Karl ... John ... Lony: Thaxter's three sons, Karl, John and Roland.

Esoteric Buddhism: Alfred Percy Sinnett (1849-1921) *Esoteric Buddhism* (Houghton Mifflin 1883).

Tangled webs: The proverb, "Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive," appears in Sir Walter Scott's 1808 narrative poem, *Marmion* (p. 345).

Mina Berntsen ... Aunty Reed: Mina Berntsen, Edwin and Thora Ingebertsen are among several Norwegian immigrants who settled in the Isles of the Shoals. Mina, for a number of years, was employed by the Laightons. She is mentioned often in *Letters of Celia Thaxter* (1895). See Norma Mandel, *Beyond the Garden Gate*, pp. 80-3.

Aunty Reed has not yet been identified, though she is known to have been a philanthropist, a resident of Montpelier, VT, and a close friend of Thaxter.

Lincoln: This person has not yet been identified.

my head: Thaxter refers to an injury she sustained in July 1883. A "rubber," would be called a massage or physical therapist today, assuming that the person had some training for the work.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Celia Thaxter

[*Begin letterhead*]

Danvers. Mass.

[*End letterhead*]

9th mo 27. 1883

My dear Friend

I am glad to have thy kind letter. I have ^been^ wanting to write thee ever since I came back from the hills, but I have been ill much of the time. I am now getting better I think, and this glorious weather makes it a shame

[*Page 2*]

for any body to be ill. At one time I was 120 hours without sleep — an experiment I am not disposed to try again.

I was only in Boston 2 days at the Anti-Butler Convention.* I have not taken up my abode there, & see no prospect of it, though I hope to be there occasionally, & to see

[*Page 3*]

thee at thy lofty perch. During my illness I took pleasure in reading over thy poems, though they were all familiar to me. It was almost like being on the cliffs of Appledore with the white sails in the distance, & the water sparkling in breeze & sun all around, & the song-sparrow singing on the ledge, & the gulls flying overhead.

I did not hear of thy accident* until

[*Page 4*]

long after it occurred,* and [then *?*] I did nt know that it was so severe, for our folks mentioned seeing thee when [driving *?*] near Manchester, & spoke of thee as looking well. It must have been a narrow escape. I and all thy friends are devoutly thankful.

I have read that wonderful book* thee speak of. It [inspired *?*] me greatly — but I am glad I am not an adept. I follow the "Wizard's Son"* eagerly — a book of rare power.

God bless thee my dear friend! and be

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

lieve I am always [thine *?*].

John G Whittier

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

I like the phot. exceedingly. It is the best I have seen and does thee what photographs seldom ^do,^ justice.

Notes

Anti-Butler Convention: As a Democrat, Benjamin Franklin Butler (1818-1893), though he had been a union army officer, was not admired by Whittier. Whittier supported George D. Robinson (1834-1896), who succeeded Butler as governor of Massachusetts after a bitterly contested election in 1883.

Presumably, Whittier refers, then, to the Massachusetts Republican convention, which was held in September 1883.

accident: See above, Celia Thaxter's 1883 Accident.

occurred: Whittier may have written "occured."

wonderful book: In letters to Annie Adams Fields of September 1883, Thaxter reported more than once about her reading of Alfred Percy Sinnett

(1849-1921), *Esoteric Buddhism* (Houghton Mifflin 1883).

Wizard's Son: Margaret Oliphant (1828-1897) was the popular Scottish author of *The Wizard's Son* (1884). The novel was serialized in *Macmillan's Magazine*, November 1882 through March 1884 (v. 47-9).

The novel also was serialized in the United States in *Littell's Living Age*, 158-160 April 1883 - March, 1884, where Jewett, Fields and Whittier read it.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. MS Am 1211, Box 1,Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892. A.L.s. to [Celia (Laighton) Thaxter]; Danvers, 27 Sep 1883.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

[*Begin Letterhead*]

Danvers, Mass.

[*End Letterhead*]

10. Mo 13. 1883*

My dear friend

I am glad to think of thee and Sarah* in town. I thought of you shivering in the chill fog, which has hung along the coast for many days.

Mr Houghton* was very kind, in his donation to the little [fund *?*]. I am only writing to get L L's exact age — a rather difficult piece of diplomacy —

[*Page 2*]

[*— repeated*] as I do not know her present whereabouts — and it is rather awkward to ask her directly without giving a reason for the question. But, I trust I shall soon get the facts of the case, and have the thing settled.

I read with great satisfaction the notice of thy Book* in the Lity World. For myself I came to the conclusion after reading the ~~that~~* Book, that I would rather have been its writer than that of any book,

[*Page 3*]

however informed with genius, where art & imagination have no place for Christian charity and tender consideration of human needs.

I hope thee and Sarah will see the wonderful Prophet of the [*two unrecognized words*] Mozoomdar,* before he leaves the country. I would have seen him in Boston, but for illness last week. That movement in India is the greatest event in the history of Christianity, since the days of Paul.*

I wonder if Elizabeth Phelps* is still in her [lonely *or* lovely] [*unrecognized word* lock *?*] trying to get sleep out of the never-sleeping sea. I

[*Page 4*]

lately had great sympathy with her — having been kept awake at one time 120 hours — an experience I would not like to try again.

With a great deal of love to Sarah Jewett, I am affectionately and gratefully thy friend.

John G. Whittier

Notes

1883: Whittier's handwriting renders the final digit of his date unreadable. This letter joins several others from Whittier to Fields, all with ambiguous dates, concerning establishing an annuity for American poet, Lucy Larcom (1824-1893), a popular American author and teacher, and a long-time close friend of Whittier & Fields.

In *Annie Adams Fields: Woman of Letters* (2002), Rita Gollin says that when Larcom "became seriously ill in the fall of 1883 and Whittier proposed establishing an annuity for her, Annie [Fields] was a major (though anonymous) contributor" (p. 112).

Other details in these letters confirm that most were written in the fall of 1883, such as Whittier's mentioning in this letter Fields's new book, *How to Help the Poor*. See notes below.

This manuscript has a penciled "12" at the top center of page 1, and a penciled "+" appears twice, once near the bottom of the left margin of page 3 next the sentence about Elizabeth Phelps, and again near the top of the left margin of page 4 next to the continuation of that sentence.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Mr Houghton: Henry Oscar Houghton. Key to Correspondents.

LL's: Lucy Larcom (1824-1893). Knowing Larcom's exact age would be necessary for establishing an annuity.

thy Book: *How to Help the Poor* (1883).

the ~~that~~: Whittier seems to have deleted both words. I have guessed that he meant to retain the first.

Mozoomdar: Indian spiritual leader, Protap Chunder Mozoomdar (1840-1905), who visited the United States in 1883. See *The Life of Protap Chunder Mozoomdar* (1927) by Suresh Chunder Bose.

Paul: St. Paul the Apostle (c. 5-c.64), Christian missionary and author of several texts in the New Testament of the Bible.

Phelps: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, Key to Correspondents. In "Art for Truth's Sake," Ronna C. Privett notes that Phelps suffered from insomnia throughout her life.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4807.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Champernowne's Island

Kittery Point, Me

Oct 14th (83

My dear Annie:

I wonder if among the people whom you succor,* there would be one who would answer Mrs [Titcomb's* *corrected*] purposes as a servant. She would give such a woman as she wants four & a half dollars a week & wants a respectable, responsible woman who could do comfortable & nice cooking, nothing complicated or fanciful, & the general house work for their small family, Mrs T. & Roland, Jenny Hunt (& her [neice *so spelled*] part of the time) & Mr. Thaxter part of the time. If you know or should hear of such a person would you let us know? Or [*deleted word*] would you lay it before Miss Smith* for me & let her put out antennae [to *corrected*] that purpose? Mrs. Titcomb proposes to begin house keeping in a fortnight from now, about the 1st

[*Page 2*]

November, so of course we look all about & I remembered Miss Smith, & thought peradventure you would speak to her for me.

Roland came down for Sunday, again & I am so thankful every time! Pale boy — I am so anxious every time I look at him, & fear, & fear — I <u>wonder</u> if you are in town today! It is so hot, so absolutely sultry, but heavenly to look at out of doors, with careering clouds & rushing winds & seas, & flying gold of falling leaves, & color in the marshes not to be told, where the samphire makes patches of burning crimson & scarlet & flame & red-black, & the salt grass every golden shade of green, & vivid & fresh in streaks — it is beautiful as a dream. Kitty Jennison* came down with [Roland *corrected*], just off the steamer from [Palermo *corrected*] where they have been living some time — I am so glad to have somebody young & lively to cheer up the boys. Mr

[*Page 3*]

John Field* spent several days here, went away yesterday — the man whom Tom Appleton said "has a genius for friendship" — I heard from Mr Darrah* whom I sent to 30 Worcester Square. I fancy his experience is something like yours — certainly very unsatisfactory — That is the fifth person I have heard from — two of the five (or rather 3 of the six) being amazed & delighted, the other four disappointed & disgusted — I fear if I get to see him* I shall join the latter band! I am hoping & hoping for next Saturday to get to town but I dont know — Shall try — but it does not depend on me — How happy it makes me to think of seeing you! Dear lovely Annie — Kiss Pin for me

Ever & ever your

C.

Notes

succor: Thaxter refers to Fields's work with the Associated Charities of Boston. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs Titcomb's: Lucy Thaxter Titcomb (1818-1908) was a sister of Thaxter's husband, Levi Thaxter.

It appears she currently is staying at the farm, but in a couple weeks, she will move to town, probably Boston, where she will have a number of people staying with her. Thaxter names her youngest son, Roland and her husband, as well as Jenny Hunt and her niece.

Jenny Hunt and her niece have not yet been identified. Possibly Thaxter refers to Jane Hunt (1822-1907), the only sister of her friend and mentor, American artist William Morris Hunt (1824-1879). In that case, her niece might be one of William Morris Hunt's daughters, Enid (1862-1928), Elena (1862-1941), and Mabel (1865-1942). Only Elena married, but she may

not have been married at this time. However, Jane Hunt had a number of other nieces, children of her and her husband's several siblings.

Miss Smith: It seems likely that Miss Smith is Zilpha Drew Smith (1852-1926). In 1883, she was head of office staff at Associated Charities of Boston.

Kitty Jennison: Probably this Katharine Almy Jennison, daughter of Samuel Jennison (1821-1900), a Cambridge, MA area lawyer, who married Mary Lincoln Thaxter, sister of Thaxter's husband, Levi, and of Lucy Thaxter Titcomb. Their 4 children were: Lucy White, Samuel Ellery (1856-), Katharine Almy, and Robert (b. & d. 1861). See *The Giles Memorial*, pp. 275-6.

John Field ... Tom Appleton: Probably, Tom Appleton is Thomas Gold Appleton (1812-1884), an American author, whose sister, Frances, married American poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882).

John Field may be art patron John White Field (1815-1887). John Singer Sargent painted a portrait of him and his wife.

Mr Darrah: Robert Kendall Darrah (1818-1885), whom Annie Fields memorialized in an obituary.

him: Thaxter seems to refer to a person who can be seen at 30 Worcester Square, presumably a Spiritualist. *The Banner of Light* of 12 August 1882, listed among Spiritualist lecturers, "W. J. Colville, inspirational orator and poet, 30 Worcester Square, Boston. Mass." Listed at the same address was Mrs. E. E. Welch. Colville edited a pair of books on Spiritualist subjects.

However, at this time another prominent person of interest to Thaxter was visiting in Boston, the Indian spiritual leader, Protap Chunder Mozoomdar (1840-1905). But he stayed at the Hotel Vendome, a considerable distance from 30 Worcester Square. See *The Life of Protap Chunder Mozoomdar* (1927) by Suresh Chunder Bose, and Whittier to Fields of 13 October.

Pin: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 3 (191-209).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Amesbury

10th Mo. 20. 1883

My dear frd:

It is long since I have heard directly from thee, and I am not sure of thy whereabouts, but venture to send to Charles St.* I am looking for thy new book* which I hear is to appear this fall. I shall have a bit of a volume which I

[*Page 2*]

shall take pleasure in sending thee.

The autumn has been rather disappointing, cold and lacking color. At least, in this section, the maples shrivelled up and dropped their leaves prematurely. I suppose they did better in the mountains. An English gentleman — one of Villard's Northern Pacific party,* told me that he had never seen anything so wonderful as the colors on the Berkshire hills.

I suppose dear Annie Fields has

[*Page 3*]

settled down to her good work once more. I shall hope to drop in some day in season for lunch with you. I would like exceedingly to meet Matthew Arnold* but very likely I shall not. I shall be here now till election trying to do something to aid Robinson against Butler.* We have a great number of Irish here, all Butlerites, and kept so by 20 rum shops.

I have just opened Harpers for November, and read thy admirable little poem of "Dunluce Castle,"* — a

[*Page 4*]

bit of verse which any body would be proud to own — the best that Harper's has had for a long time.

With much love for our dear Annie Fields, I am most affectionately thy friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

Charles St.: 148 Charles Street, Boston, is the address of Annie Adams Fields.

new book: Jewett's *The Mate of the Daylight* appeared in 1883. Whittier's 1883 book was *The Bay of Seven Islands, and Other Poems*.

Villard's Northern Pacific party: Henry Villard (1835-1900), was an American journalist and financier who became president of the Northern Pacific Railroad. He was active in Republican politics. Presumably Whittier encountered the Northern Pacific party during a stay in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

meet Matthew Arnold: British poet and critic, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), lectured in the United States from October 1883 through March 1884. In *Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier,* Richard Cary says that Whittier and Arnold met at the home of Annie Fields around Thanksgiving of 1883.

Robinson against Butler: As a Democrat, Benjamin Franklin Butler (1818-1893), though he had been a union army officer, was not admired by Whittier. Whittier supported George D. Robinson (1834-1896), who succeeded Butler as governor of Massachusetts after a bitterly contested election in 1883.

Massachusetts was among many American states that wholly or partially prohibitedthe sale of alcoholic beverages in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The Democratic Party typically opposed prohibition at that time. Whittier draws upon the stereotype of Irish Catholics as excessive consumers of spirits.

"Dunluce Castle": Jewett's poem appeared in *Harper's Magazine* in November 1883.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence. Letters from John Greenleaf Whittier, MS Am 1743 (235). A previous transcription by Richard Cary appears in "Whittier Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett," in *Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier,* ed. John B. Pickard (Hartford: The Emerson Society, 1968), pp. 11-22.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury

10th Mo 22, 1883*

Dear Annie Fields

I have now the facts of birth &c necessary, & am ready for the money. Lucy has been very ill at Bethel. She spent two or three days at Portland and gained strength to get to Beverly last week. My niece with whom she stopped thought her quite sick. If the illness is really serious I think it would be better to put the money in Savings Banks for the present.

[*Page 2*]

We have now a sum sufficient to give her about $118 per year in an annuity. I had to tell her that a sum had come into my hands the source of which I could not divulge even to her, but that it was the outgrowth of love & friendship, & she need have no misgivings about it.

I hope I shall be able to see Matthew Arnold* when he is in Boston. I lose all the nice folks who visit Boston. Lord Coleridge* telegraphed to me to meet him at the Revere, but I was not able to accept the invitation; and I was still

[*Page 3*]

more sorry to fail of seeing Mozoomdar* the Hindoo. But I never was much of a lion-hunter and have seldom gone out of my way to see any stranger.

I am doing what I can to release Massachusetts from Butler,* who has been riding on her shoulders like the Old Man on Sinbad the Sailor* I have strong hopes that it can be done.

Ever thy affectionate friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

1883: Whittier's final digit is ambiguous, but material in the letter indicates that it is from 1883. See notes below.

This manuscript has a penciled "8" at the top center of page 1, and a penciled "X" appears twice, once on p. 2 before the paragraph that begins "I hope I shall" and again before the final paragraph on p. 3.

Lucy: Lucy Larcom (1824-1893). See Fields to Whittier of 19 September 1883. Larcom often retreated to the resort town of Bethel, ME.

Matthew Arnold: British poet and critic, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), lectured in the United States from October 1883 through March 1884. In *Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier*, Richard Cary says that Whittier and Arnold met at the home of Annie Fields around Thanksgiving of 1883.

Lord Coleridge: John Duke Coleridge, 1st Baron Coleridge (1820-1894) was an English lawyer and Liberal politician. The New York *Times* reported Coleridge's visit with Governor Butler of

Massachusetts on 7 September 1883 at the Paul Revere House in Boston.

Mozoomdar: Indian spiritual leader, Protap Chunder Mozoomdar (1840-1905), who visited the United States in 1883. See *The Life of Protap Chunder Mozoomdar* (1927) by Suresh Chunder Bose.

Butler: As a Democrat, Massachusetts governor, Benjamin Franklin Butler (1818-1893), though he had been a union army officer, was not admired by Whittier. Whittier supported George D. Robinson (1834-1896), who succeeded Butler as governor of Massachusetts after a bitterly contested election in 1883.

Sinbad: Sinbad the Sailor is the protagonist in a Middle Eastern story cycle. Enslaved by the Old Man of the Sea on his fifth voyage, Sinbad must trick him to escape.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4808.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick

24th October

[*1883*]*

Dear Friend I was so glad to get your letter, and it was so good of you to tell me that you liked the Dunluce poem.* I did not see the proof of it or I should have proved myself a better workman, for some things stare me in the face in a very distressing way — I always find that my first-instinctive

[*Page 2*]

word is so much better than any I can think of afterward! But it did me no end of good to think you liked it, and I wish we could [whisk *corrected*] through the air and go through Dunluce Castle together — though not on such a windy day as the one when I was there before; we had to go across a narrow bit of wall

[*Page 3*]

that was the only bridge across the deep ravine — When I think of that amazing ruin I almost feel capable of writing a robber or a huntsman story that would put my dead friend Mayne Reid* to his trumps.

I was 'moved' up from Manchester with my dog Roger* two weeks ago tomorrow and our last days there were very pleasant ones, for we (A. F.* and I) drove or walked a great deal. One day we went to Coffin's

[*Page 4*]

Beach* which I had never seen before, and we took a last look at Essex which I have quite fallen in love with. It is all afloat when the tide is in, like a little Venice, and the shipwrights [hammers *corrected*] knock at the timbers all day long — as if all the ghosts of departed shipbuilders from all along shore, were chiming in with the real ones —

I have been thinking a good deal about a longish story to be called A Marsh Island*

[*Page 5*]

and I have had beautiful times going to Essex to see about it! I haven't made the first scratch at a sheet of paper yet, but it is well begun —

We hoped you would be coming in some day at breakfast time — but I shall be sure to see you when I go to town again. I dont think it will {be} a great while first — for Master Roger is so homesick

[*Page 6*]

and he and the other big dog squabble so that there is no living with them. They have been 'only children' too long! Ann (the old cook)* says that Roger is "like a mon from our place that wint away over into Scotland for six weeks and when he come back he didn't know his mother's cat, nor what she was at all annyway!" — He seemed to be quite bewildered and strange, poor Roggy! ——

Mary* sends her love to you, and so do I. I have read Miss Phelps's* book and I think most of it is very beautiful

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

and though the sillinesses of it hurt one a little, there's ever so much to be thankful for, and I know it will do good and make vague things real to many people. Goodbye.

Yours always,

Sarah

Notes

1883: See Whittier to Jewett of 20 October 1883.

Dunluce poem: Jewett's "Dunluce Castle" appeared in *Harper's* in November 1883.

Reid: Thomas Mayne Reid (1818-1883) was an Irish British novelist who wrote adventure novels set in the United States. He died on 22 October 1883. Wikipedia.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

Roger: For Jewett's sketch of her Irish setter, see her letter to Gertrude Van Rensselaer Wickham of August 29, 1886.

Coffin's Beach: Wikipedia notes: "Wingaersheek Beach is a 0.6-mile ... long beach located on the Annisquam River in West Gloucester, Massachusetts.... The beach was alternatively called Coffins Beach for Peter Coffin whose farm was located alongside this beach."

A Marsh Island: Jewett's 1885 novel was serialized in the *Atlantic Monthly* before the book was published.

Phelps's: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward. Key to Correspondents.

Her *Beyond the Gates* (1883) was a sequel to her popular novel about the afterlife, *The Gates Ajar* (1868).

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA. A previous transcription by Richard Cary appears in "'Yours Always Lovingly': Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 107 (1971): 412-50. New transcription and notes.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

148 Charles St. Oct. 24 '83

Dear friend:

Please find checks endorsed for all except Mrs Silsbee's* twenty-five dollars which is perfectly sure by and by but I thought it was not worth while to hurry her about it —

I am very sorry to learn that our dear Lucy* has been ill.

I had been in town when the [Oriental *?*] visitor Mozondar* was here{.}

[*Page 2*]

I think we should have found the opportunity to see him together, but Mr. Herford* told me last night that he was already on his way to San Francisco, and [then *corrected*] to India.

I shall hope that Mr. Arnold* will not altogether escape us, and that you will not be too tired with

[*Page 3*]

the campaign* to come to see him.

Think of Wendell Phillips* going to speak at Vicksburg! And that we should live to know of it. How I should like to be one of that audience. The [crooked stick *?*] will stand straight enough there I think and thunder will come out of it —

My dear Sarah returned to South Berwick with

[*Page 4*]

her sister* yesterday —

She has been lingering here somewhat later than she intended in order to read the proofs of "The Mate of the Daylight and his Friends Ashore{.}"*

Elizabeth Phelps's book* I have just read. It seems to me very well done and will be "deservedly popular" as the newspapers say. How interesting it is to watch the development of this great subject —

I hope to see you very soon and will write you about Mr. Arnold as soon as I know anything{.}

Affectionately yours Annie Fields

Notes

Silsbee's: Marianne Cabot Devereux Silsbee. Key to Correspondents.

Lucy: Lucy Larcom (1824-1893) was a popular American author and teacher, a close friend of Whittier and Fields. In 1883, they established an annuity for her support. For an account of the Larcom-Fields friendship see Rita Gollin, Annie Adams Fields, pp. 106-113.

Mozondar: This transcription is uncertain. Presumably Fields meant the Indian spiritual leader, Protap Chunder Mozoomdar (1840-1905), who visited the United States in 1883. See *The Life of Protap Chunder Mozoomdar* (1927) by Suresh Chunder Bose.

Herford: This transcription is uncertain. Perhaps Fields referred to Rev. Brooke Herford. See Helen Brooke Herford in Key to Correspondents.

Arnold: See Matthew Arnold in Key to Correspondents.

campaign: Whittier was deeply involved in the Massachusetts gubernatorial campaign of 1883. He supported the winning Republican candidate George D. Robinson (1834-1896), who was opposed by the Democratic incumbent Benjamin Franklin Butler (1818-1893).

Wendell Phillips ...Vicksburg: Wendell Phillips (1811-1884) was an American activist attorney and reformer, notably for the abolition of slavery and then for woman suffrage. At the time of this letter, Phillips was suffering from heart disease, and would die a few months later, in January 1884. I have not been able to learn whether Phillips spoke in Vicksburg, Mississippi, between this letter and his death, but that seems unlikely. Wikipedia.

sister: Sarah Orne Jewett and, almost certainly, her sister Mary Rice Jewett.

Ashore: Jewett's story collection, *The Mate of the Daylight, and Friends Ashore* (1884) appeared late in 1883.

Phelps's book: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps [Ward], *Beyond the Gates* (Boston, 1883), a sequel to her very popular novel, *The Gates Ajar* (1868). Both books explore ideas about a Christian afterlife.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., to Sarah Orne Jewett

296 Beacon St.

Oct. 24th, 1883.

My dear Miss Jewett,

I have not thanked you for your kind note{.}

Forgive me, and take my thanks, not cooled by keeping, for your pleasant words and for the friendly message from dear Mrs. Fields.*

Faithfully yours

O. W. Holmes.

Notes

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Holmes, Oliver Wendell, 1809-1894. 2 letters; 1883-[1891]. (98). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to the Editor of *The Christmas Traveller*

South Berwick Maine

26 October

[*1883*]*

Dear Sir

Your letter has been delayed a little on its way to me, so I have not been able to answer it sooner. I was afraid at first that I must decline [for *corrected*] I am very busy just now but I believe I can manage it — and so I say yes! Will you kindly tell me how much

[*Page 2*]

time you can give me and whether you wish for a grown-people's story or something for young people? I ask this question because I began a ^Christmas^ sketch in the summer, and I have always wished to finish it — but I will not ~~ask~~ ^tell^ you to whom it belongs so that you will be free to say which you really want!

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

To —

The Editor of the Christmas Traveller

Notes

1883: The only Jewett story known to have appeared in *The Christmas Traveller* was "The Christmas Eyes," in December 1883, a story for young readers. *The Christmas Traveller* was an annual holiday extra of the *Boston Evening Traveller*. In 1883, James W. Clarke was the managing editor, and so the likely recipient of this letter.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ: Robert H. Taylor Collection of English and American Literature RTC01, Box 10, Folder 12.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury 10 Mo 26 1883*

My dear Friend

Thanks for thy letter, and the enclosed $700. I shall wait until I hear [from *?*] LL's* health before taking the annuity. I shall probably [leave *?*] tomorrow or [Monday *?*].

I understand E. S. P.'s "Beyond the Gate"* is having a great sale. I am glad of {it} for her sake, & because I think the book will be a comfort to many.

[*Page 2*]

Do not take any trouble in regard to my seeing Arnold.* I would like to meet him, if circumstances admit of it, of course, but I seldom go out [anyway *or* of my way] to meet any stranger. I am awkward at [*deleted word*] [lion *?*]-hunting.

I shall send thee in a few days a little book* of my own. I wish it were better, — but if one will write at 75 what can he expect? — I had a pleasant note from our dear Sarah Jewett yesterday.

God's peace & love be with thee dear friend!

Always thine

John G Whittier

Notes

1883: The final digit of Whittier's date is ambiguous, but internal evidence indicates an 1883 composition date. See notes below.

LL's: Lucy Larcom (1824-1893) was a popular American author and teacher, a close friend of Whittier and Fields. For an account of the Larcom-Fields friendship and of establishing an annuity for Larcom, see Rita Gollin, *Annie Adams Fields*, pp. 106-113

E. S. P.'s "Beyond the Gate": Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward. Key to Correspondents. Her 1883 sequel to her spiritualist novel, *The Gates Ajar* (1868) was *Beyond the Gates*.

Arnold: British poet and critic, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), lectured in the United States from October 1883 through March 1884. In *Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier*, Richard Cary says that Whittier and Arnold met at the home of Annie Fields around Thanksgiving of 1883.

little book: Whittier's *The Bay of Seven Islands, and Other Poems* appeared in October 1883.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4650.

Charles Hull Botsford* to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin Letterhead*]

The Manhattan,

TEMPLE COURT, NEW YORK CITY.

[*End Letterhead*]

29th Oct 1883,*

Miss Jewett

Dear Madame,

I send you with this a copy of The Manhattan of which I hope you may be already a reader. May I add that we should [like *?*] to have you write us a story of New England life in the vein of your last in the [Atlantic *corrected*].

At the author's club last week it was spoken of by Stedman* as among the best short stories

[*Page 2*]

he considered it the best of the year's periodical literature.

Our rate of payment is at least as high as that of the other magazines and we are trying to maintain an equal standard as to the quality of the material used. Owing to our limited space we are obliged to bring all [mfs *?*] into as small a compass as possible, 8000 words being the usual limit for a story.

Should you be able to choose a powerful and singular motive in [cotemporary *for* contemporary *?*] New England life, one that will bear a dramatic

[*Page 3*, *with the same letterhead as page* 1]

and vigorous treatment it may assist your purpose to know that the Manhattan imposes few restrictions upon its contributors. It has no traditions except those of good taste in the [same *?*] field and is committed to no exclusive

policy, political or literary. To print the best thinking of the [brighest *for* brightest *?*] minds is its aim and to accomplish such a result we shall need the cooperation of just such literary workers as yourself{.}

[*Page 4*]

In the hope that you may see your way clear to begin some work for our columns, I remain

Yours very truly

Cha^{s} Hull Botsford

Miss Sarah O Jewett.

North Berwick*

Maine

Notes

1883: Botsford's eccentric script makes the date look like 1880, but the Houghton has assigned the 1883 date, which is correct. *The Manhattan: An Illustrated Literary Magazine,* according to WorldCat and Internet Archive entries, apparently began in 1883 and ceased publication in August 1884.

Though he was a contributor, Botsford's official connection with the magazine remains obscure. Charles Hull Botsford (1855-1930) was married to literary editor Florence Hudson Botsford (1868-1946). Little more has been learned about him.

Jewett published one item in the magazine in March 1884, the narrative poem, "A Farmer's Sorrow."

Jewett published three stories with her by-line in *Atlantic Monthly* during 1883 before October, "A New Parishioner" (April), "A Landless Farmer" (May/June), and "The Hare and the Tortoise" (August).

Stedman: Either Edmund Charles Stedman, or his son, Arthur Griffin Stedman. Key to Correspondents.

North Berwick: This address is incorrect. Jewett's home residence was in South Berwick.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Botsford, Charles Hull 1 letter; 1883, bMS Am 1743 (25). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Monday Oct. 29. 1883

My dear friend:

Your dear book* has just come in at the end of the rainy=est and dullest of days. I have just shaken hands as it were with all the old friends and made some new ones. "The Rock=Tomb of Bradore" was quite new to me and it is most touching and full of beauty — But it was a particular surprise and pleasure to me that it should

[*Page 2*]

be dedicated to Mr. Whipple — with the introductory too to Harriet Spofford.*

Apart from all however there is another and [newer *?*] reason why the book will always be most precious to me, containing as it does in its heart such a tribute to my own! Whipple is here to feel

[*Page 3*]

and to suffer and he is in a measure it seems to me forgotten. I am sure he will find great pleasure in these latter days in your remembrance.

What do you think this miserable party has been trying to do all day but to indite a new "charity" paper!* As if the world were not worn out with it now — yet there was nothing to do but to try

[*Page 4*]

and my [temper *?*] over it was [forever *?*], (a pretty state of things you will say for a charity paper!) and the thing wont come to an end or when it does I doubt if it will be wanted and altogether I feel like a creature of threads and patches and incapable of tying shoe strings!

My dear Sarah* is in So. Berwick wrestling I am sure more joyously and to more purpose —

Affectionately and gratefully

your Annie Fields —

[*Up the left margin and in the top right margin of page 1*]

The blessing in your note and then the book have made the dark day to shine!

Notes

book: Whittier's *The Bay of Seven Islands, and Other Poems* appeared in October 1883. Richard Cary has noted that "of the twenty-two poems it contains, seventeen were previously published." Included is "The Rock-Tomb of Bradore."

Whipple ... Spofford: American author and critic, Edwin Percy Whipple (1818-1886). His "Recollections of James T. Fields" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in August 1881.

Harriet Elizabeth Prescott Spofford. Key to Correspondents.

paper: At this time, Fields had just published her book, *How to Help the Poor*. It is not yet known what paper she was working on at the end of 1883. Her next known publications on charity work appeared in 1886. See Judith Roman, *Annie Adams Fields* (1990) p. 183.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick

30 October

[*1883*]*

My dear Friend

Thank you so much for sending me your new book —*

I sat down to read it at once and I thought I knew most of it, so I would look for the new ~~ones~~ ^poems^, but I found they were <u>all</u> new — and more beautiful and true than any words of mine can say — I cannot thank you enough for the books which have grown dearer

[*Page 2*]

and more helpful to me year by year — as I have grown older —

I have just seen an empty cover of <u>my</u> new book,* which will be going to you before long, with everything finished outside and in — I hope I shall tell you by and by that I have finished a longer story, but I don't dare to make any promises!

[*Page 3*]

Did I tell you that I fell in love with Essex? I thought I should embark on a long bit of gossip* about that neighbourhood, but it doesn't seem to have bones enough yet, for a story —

— I hope to see and hear Matthew Arnold* and so I may go to town next week for a day and night. I [*deletion*] hear that "<u>The</u> Sandpiper"* has gone back to her winter perch —

I like to think

[*Page 4*]

of you at Amesbury — Somehow it seems a great deal nearer than Danvers, and I can almost say good morning.*

— I have just come in from a drive over the windy hills to Dover, and it is pleasant to see the farms, and meet the barrels of apples riding out — I should think the shiny outdoor things would hate to spend their latter days in country cellars — such as were not bound for John Wentworth's cider mill!*

Yours lovingly

Sarah

Notes

1883: Cary assigned this date, presumably because of the reference to Arnold's lecture tour.

book: Whittier's *The Bay of Seven Islands, and Other Poems* appeared in October 1883, according to Cary. He notes most of the poems had appeared previously, so they must have been new to Jewett.

new book: Jewett's new book at the end of 1883 was *The Mate of the Daylight, and Friends Ashore* (1884).

long bit of gossip: Probably Jewett is thinking about her novel, *A Marsh Island* (1885), which is set in Essex. However, her next novel was *A Country Doctor* (1884).

Arnold: Matthew Arnold lectured in the U.S. from October 1883 until March 1884.

Sandpiper: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

mill: Cary notes

> The area between Dover, New Hampshire, and South Berwick, Maine — a distance of some seven miles — might well be called Wentworth country. The famous Wentworth Manor is in Salmon Falls nearby, and numerous descendants of the Wentworth

clan made their homes in the vicinity. The family was prominent for its governors, divines, philanthropists, Indian fighters, and tavern hosts.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA. A previous transcription by Richard Cary appears in "'Yours Always Lovingly': Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 107 (1971): 412-50. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Wednesday

[*7 November 1883*]*

Dear Fuff I did have the most beautiful time yesterday afternoon — I feel as if I had seen another country in Europe, oh a great deal better than that! though I only went wandering over a great tract of pasture-land down along the river — You would think it ~~were~~ ^is^ such a [lovely *or* lonely] place, and I shall have to write about it one of these days, for

[*Page 2*]

I saw so many things — I never had known any thing beyond the edges of it before. It was the sweetest weather in the world and Rogery went —

But last night there was a dismal time, for the two bowwows got into the parlor together and first thing I knew there was a pitched

[*Page 3*]

battle, and I was afraid the lamps and everything would be tipped over before I could get hold of anybody's collar. And Roger passed a suffering night with a lame paw and broke my rest all to pieces with his whining, and Browny's ear was damaged and dogs are at a discount!* (I must

[*Page 4*]

run to the post office with this or you wont get it tonight — Dear darling I hope you will feel like going to the lecture but I see that Mr Arnold* cant be heard easily — so perhaps you would only see him! Dont get tired dear and you know I am going to you [so *corrected*] soon now

your own Pin.*)

We hear a rumour of Butlers defeat* — and I hope it is true —

Notes

7 November 1883: This date is confirmed by Jewett's reference to the election defeat of Benjamin Franklin Butler, which took place on Tuesday 6 November 1883. See notes below.

Fuff: Nickname for Annie Adams Fields. Fields has deleted the greeting in pencil.

discount: See "Sarah Orne Jewett's Dog" (1889) for a portrait of Roger. Roger and Browny/Brownie came to the Jewett household in 1881. Both are mentioned together only in the letter to Eben Norton Horsford of 27 October 1881 and in this letter. Roger died in 1889. See Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett, 21 June 1889.

Mr Arnold: British poet and critic, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), whose first North American lecture tour began on 30 October 1883 and ended in March 1884. Arnold spoke at Harvard on 11/12/1883 and several more times in the Boston area through mid-December.

Pin: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Butler's defeat: Benjamin Franklin Butler (1818-1893), a Massachusetts Democrat, ran for President of the United States with the Greenback party in 1884. On 6 November 1883, he decisively lost re-election as Governor of Massachusetts. See the New York *Times* of 7 November 1883, p. 1.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255).

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Friday

[*9 November 1883*]*

[*Begin letterhead*]

148. Charles Street.

Boston.

[*End letterhead*]

My dear friend:

Mr. Arnold came to see me yesterday and he is to pass a few days with me here on his return

from Hartford next week. He is very full of the hope that he may see you.

Will you give me the pleasure to see you here one day for an early dinner at two o'clock. Mrs Arnold and his daughter are with him.

He has many engagements { — } therefore I think Saturday at two will be the day and hour

[*2*]

but I will drop you a line or a telegram to say just when it must be. Please do not disappoint us both if you can help it. I feel sure you will like each other for he is very [simple *altered from* simply] and manly and gives one a sense of goodness which assures me of his [fraternity *?*].

Affectionately yours

Annie Fields.

[*3*]

Evening — a note from Mrs Arnold confirms the plan for Saturday the 17th. Therefore I shall trust you will be able to join us at two o'clock.

[*4*]

Mrs Fields*

Notes

1883: In this letter, Fields sets a date of Saturday 17 November for Whittier to come to 148 Charles St., Boston, to have a meal with British poet and public intellectual, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), who was then presenting lectures in the U.S., traveling with his wife, Frances, and daughter, Lucy. See Key to Correspondents, and Whittier to Fields of 12 November.

Though Whittier agreed to make the trip, it turned out that he became too ill to do so. In *Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier,* Richard Cary says that Whittier and Arnold met at the home of Annie Fields around Thanksgiving of 1883.

Fields: Almost certainly this is in another hand.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

Phillips Brooks to Annie Adams Fields

[*Begin Letterhead*]

233 CLARENDON STREET.

BOSTON.

[*End Letterhead*]

[*To the right of the letterhead*] Nov. 10. 1883

Dear Mrs Fields

I have been very sorry that I could not take any part in helping carry out your plot [*altered and unrecognized word*] Mr Arnold —* I am truly glad that it has ripened to success without my help —

I will most gladly come next Saturday at 2. But is it true (as the Transcript) tells us that he is to lecture at the Chickering Hall at 3? It looks as if something must be wrong — but I know

[*Page 2*]

that if there is you will set it right & so, unless I hear from you, I mean to come —

Believe me always

yours most sincerely

Phillips Brooks

Notes

Arnold: British poet and critic, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), lectured in the United States from October 1883 through March 1884.

According to "Arnold's North American Lecture Tour 1883-84," Arnold presented "Literature and Science" at Chickering Hall in Boston on the afternoon of Saturday 17 November 1883, the day for which Fields has invited Brooks.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields Papers and Addenda Box 6: mss FI 5637, Brooks, Phillips, 13 pieces, 1879-1890.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Amesbury 11th Mo 12 83

My dear Friend

How kind and good to give me an opportunity to meet Arnold* at thy table! I hope I shall be able to take advantage of it. I am ill and shut up

to-day but I hope I shall be with you on Saturday.

I hope M. A. will see that the majority did

[*Page 2*]

a very wise thing last week in dismissing Butler.* I worked hard in our town, and we made a gain of nearly 100 votes over last year.

Ever & gratefully thy friend

John G Whittier

Notes

1883: The final digit of Whittier's date is ambiguous, but internal evidence indicates an 1883 composition date. See notes below.

Arnold: British poet and critic, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), lectured in the United States from October 1883 through March 1884. In *Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier*, Richard Cary says that Whittier and Arnold met at the home of Annie Fields around Thanksgiving of 1883. Whittier's letter of 19 November 1883 explains his inability to get to Fields's dinner on Saturday 17 November 1883.

Butler: Whittier supported George D. Robinson (1834-1896), who succeeded Benjamin Franklin Butler (1818-1893) as governor of Massachusetts after a bitterly contested election in 1883.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4758.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Amesbury

11th Mo 14 1883

My dear friend*

A line from Mrs. Cole* informs me that thee are at thy old sky-parlor in the [*unrecognized word*]. I would like to be there for awhile at least, but there is not much probability of my spending any considerable time in Boston. In fact I have been a good deal unwell since this month came in:

[*Page 2*]

and every change of weather affects me unfavorably. I dread the dark, [short *?*] days & the long nights, of winter.

I want to lunch with Arnold at Mrs Fields* on Saturday, but an obstinate cold & headache, I am greatly afraid will prevent me. How nice it would be if we could only do just what we wish to! How much we have to renounce, and let drop out of our lives! Perhaps in the long run it is

[*Page 3*]

all for the best.

What a baffling story the Wizard's Son* is! I am wanting to know what became of the [poor Lord *?*] & his friends under the lead of that awful old ghost.

Have* thee read Elizabeth [Stuart *?*] Phelps "Beyond the Gate"!* Ah! — if we only knew! [in *?*] the place of conjecture and imagination. I believe in the future life — but the how and where!

I am happy in the result of the election — thankful that the state has sat down heavily on Butler.*

[*Page 4*]

I never thought of taking an active interest in politics this year, but I could [nt *or* not] help it when the fight began.

Hoping to see thee [*unrecognized words,* ere long *?*] and with every good wish for thee I am ever thy friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

friend: Whittier usually capitalizes "friend" in his greeting, but here he appears not to have done so.

At the top center of page 1 in a different ink is what appears to be the number 11. This could be in Whittier's hand, but this is not certain.

Mrs. Cole: The identity of this person is not yet known. A Mrs. E. B. Cole is known to have served as president of an off-shoot of the New England Women's Club, the Wednesday Morning Club in Boston, during 1893-1895. However, it has proven difficult to further identify her or to learn more about her. She may be Ellen Standley Gale Cole (1859-1944), but this has not been established.

Another possibility is Mrs. Otto B. Cole, a Boston folklorist and translator active in woman's suffrage at the turn of the 20th century. Her given name may be Mollie R.

Arnold at Mrs Fields: Richard Cary says that during his lecture tour of the United States, October 1883-March 1884, British poet Matthew Arnold (1822-1888) stayed for some time at Mrs. Fields's house in Boston. "Miss Jewett fondly remembered him sitting at the fireside reading his 'The Scholar Gipsy'."

As this letter shows, Whittier felt considerable regret that his health probably would prevent a meeting with Arnold. Cary reports, however, that Whittier did have lunch with Arnold at the Fields home at Thanksgiving or soon thereafter. See Cary, "Whittier Letters," p. 15.

Have: A penciled X, probably in another hand, appears at the beginning of this paragraph. The same is the case for the following paragraph.

Wizard's Son: Margaret Oliphant (1828-1897) was the popular Scottish author of *The Wizard's Son* (1884). The novel was serialized in the United States in *Littell's Living Age*, 158-160 April 1883 - March, 1884, where Jewett, Fields and Whittier read it.

Beyond the Gate: In American author Elizabeth Stuart Phelps [Ward] (1844-1911), *Beyond the Gates* (Boston, 1883), a woman believes she dies and goes to heaven. Whittier seems to have forgotten that he asked Jewett this question and received her answer a few weeks before this letter. See Jewett to Whittier of 24 October.

Butler: Controversial Democrat Benjamin Butler (1818-1830) lost his re-election bid for governor of Massachusetts in 1883.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 1-4822.

Georgina Haliburton to Sarah Orne Jewett

Portsmouth

Nov 14

[*1883-1887*]*

Dear Sarah

[This *?*] not a sail in sight [not a steamer abroad *?*] I have to tell you of today and I know you will be glad to hear that I am going to Europe with my aunt & cousins on Dec. 4th {.}

[*Page 2*]

What a good time I shall have [if all goes *?*] well at home, with my dearest ones — I must see you to say good bye{.} I dont know where you may be now. I shall pass a day & night in Cambridge on [*unrecognized word*]{.}

You must tell me how to prepare for sea sickness ^of^ the way [most *?*] kind.

with dearest love

Georgina

Notes

1883-1888: This undated letter probably was composed after Jewett's first trip to Europe in 1882 and before the death of Halliburton's aunt Mary Ann Halliburton on 7 May 1888.

An envelope associated with this letter is addressed to Jewett in South Berwick. The cancellation was in Portsmouth, NH, in November, but no further information about the date is readable.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Haliburton, Georgina. 2 letters; 1904 & [n.d.]. (88). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Friday. 148 Charles St.

[*16 November 1883*]*

My dear friend:

I cannot entertain a doubt about your coming tomorrow! I trust you may feel equal to the effort because Mr. Arnold is going, in his lecture on Emerson, (this he confided to me) to read one of your poems [a *for* and *?*] I think he really needs to see you to understand both Emerson & yourself better. So you see there is a wider reason, even, than the pleasure it will be to us

[*2*]

for I think the New England type and character should be as intelligently treated as possible by this man who is to live and teach many years yet, so far as our poor human eyes can tell.

I rejoice over the election* — but it is a mingled feeling if it has made you too ill to represent our dear country in this

[*3*]

other way!

But I shall expect you! and as soon after twelve as you can be with us.

Ever lovingly yous

Annie Fields.

Notes

1883: Fields refers to the previously arranged Saturday 17 November 1883 meeting at her house between Whittier and British poet and public intellectual, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), who was then presenting lectures in the U.S., traveling with his wife, Frances, and daughter, Lucy. Whittier became too ill to attend. See Key to Correspondents and Whittier to Fields of 19 November 1883, and other letters between Fields, Whittier and Sarah Orne Jewett between 9 and 19 November.

Emerson: American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803- 27 April 1882). Wikipedia.

election: Fields refers to the bitterly contested Massachusetts gubernatorial election of 1883. Whittier's candidate, George D. Robinson prevailed.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Oak Knoll

Monday

[*19 November 1883*]*

My dear Friend

It was utterly impossible for me to go to Boston day before yesterday. I was obliged to be still all day, thinking of all I was missing and more sorry than I can tell, that I could not be with you round your lovely hearth fire, where I am sure your guest

[*Page 2*]

found the "sweetness & light" he has long been seeking. I suppose dear Sarah* is there. I mean if I can to go to Boston before the close of this week. I am sorry to hear that Mrs. Claflin* is ill. I shall stop at the Tremont House* as I shall only be in town a day or two, to see about LL's* matter. [She *corrected*] is slowly growing in health, [and *?*] Mrs [Dr Dowdell *?*]* writes me that she thinks she will recover. Whether it will be best to get the annuity or place the money in the

[*Page 3*]

Savings Bank, I do not feel quite sure. I am very glad under the circumstances, that you have the money for her, anyhow.

[With *?*] love to thee & thy "little girl" I am affectionately thy friend

John G Whittier

I have just got the Atlantic and read thy "Initiate",* which might have been fitly chanted in the sacred groves of Eleusis and Delphos. It has the solemnity and awe of the old religious mysteries.

Sarah Jewett's "Only Son"* is a faultless piece of work — one of her best.

Notes

1883: Though Whittier does not date this letter, he clearly has composed it on the Monday after failing to get to the Fields home in Boston, on 17 November, for a dinner with Matthew Arnold. See Whittier's letter to Fields of 12 November 1883 as well as the notes below.

"sweetness & light": British poet and critic, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), lectured in the United States from October 1883 through March 1884. In *Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier*, Richard Cary says that Whittier and Arnold met at the home of Annie Fields around Thanksgiving of 1883.

The phrase "sweetness and light" appears in Arnold's major work of social criticism, *Culture and Anarchy* (1869).

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Mrs. Claflin: Whittier maintained a friendship with Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin (see Key to Correspondents.) and her husband, William Claflin, a prominent Republican politician.

Tremont House: The Tremont House Hotel (1829).

LL's: Lucy Larcom (1824-1893) was a popular American author and teacher, a close friend of Whittier and Fields. For an account of the Larcom-Fields friendship and of establishing an

annuity for Larcom, see Rita Gollin, *Annie Adams Fields*, pp. 106-113

Mrs [Dr Dowdell ?]: This transcription is uncertain. As women doctors were comparatively rare, it seems likely that Whittier may refer to Dr. Maria Louise Dowdell Wilson (d. 1902), a homeopathic physician, who in 1877 graduated from the Boston University School of Medicine. She was the second wife of Hiram Austin Wilson; they were married in about 1887. However, except for her medical training, no evidence has been found that she practiced in the Massachusetts-Maine area in 1883 or attended Lucy Larcom.

"Initiate": Annie Fields's poem, "The Initiate" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (December 1883, pp. 745-6). She collected it in *The Singing Shepherd* (1895), with a new title: "The Mysteries of Eleusis."

Whittier and the new title refer to Eleusinian Mysteries, annual initiations for the cult of Demeter and Persephone, near Eleusis in ancient Greece. And Whittier refers also to the Oracle of Delphi at the temple of Apollo in Delphi.

"Only Son": Jewett's short story, "An Only Son," appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* (November 1883). Presumably Jewett is the "little girl" Whittier greets near the end of the letter.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4683.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Monday morning.

[*19 November 1883*]*

Dear friend;

Mr. Arnold was much gratified by your kind note to me[+], but I need not say he was disappointed. Mr. Brooks came round also to lunch and we passed a quiet two hours together, hoping for you until the latest moment. He will return to me next Saturday to pass Sunday again and who knows if [our *?*] fortune may not be better! I am

[+]Which was at once confiscated for an autograph.

[*2*]

sure you will let me know if you are better and likely to come this way. The weather at last smiles and if it will only hold for a few days I trust you may get out of doors and breathe the breath of life once more.

Sarah Jewett sends you her tender love — She will return to Berwick tomorrow.

I enclose the missing check from Mrs Silsbee*

[*3*]

which I received on Saturday when I was looking and hoping to see you.

Mr. Brooks is very enthusiastic about India though when I asked him about the Mystics — he said — it was a nation of mystics and you soon ceased to be surprised. "When people come to a higher spiritual development in Boston you know they join The Associated Charities, when they come to the higher enlightenment

[*4*]

in India they go and sit under a Bohea tree !!!!*

The news from our dear Lucy Larcom* was not very good I thought when she last wrote. I hope you may have some later bulletin when we meet. It is a weary season for her.

Affectionately yours

Annie Fields.

Notes

1883: Fields refers to the previously arranged Saturday 17 November 1883 meeting at her house between Whittier and British poet and public intellectual, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), who was then presenting lectures in the U.S., traveling with his wife, Frances, and daughter, Lucy. Whittier became too ill to attend. See Key to Correspondents and Whittier to Fields of 19 November 1883, and other letters between Fields, Whittier and Sarah Orne Jewett between 9 and 19 November.

Brooks: Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents.

Silsbee: Marianne Cabot Devereux Silsbee. Key to Correspondents.

Bohea tree: Brooks refers to Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, a South Asian wandering ascetic and religious teacher in the 6th or 5th century BCE. According to Buddhist texts, he

achieved enlightenment while meditating under a Bohdi tree, a type of large fig. Wikipedia.

Lucy Larcom: Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Tremont House

Wednesday Morng

[*28 November 1883*]*

My dear Mrs Fields

I meant to call on thee today, but a bad head-ache and the worse weather keeps me in. I have not heard from thee or Sarah Jewett for a long time, and begin to fear that one or both may be ill, or that you are absorbed in Spiritual Research. I am here only a day or two, and shall hope to see you before I leave. With love to Sarah* I am always affectionately thy friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

Tremont House: The Tremont House Hotel (1829) in Boston.

28 November 1883: The Huntington Library speculates that this letter is from 1886. However, a few circumstances connect it with letters believed to be from November 1883.

In a letter of 19 November, Whittier announced his intention to come to Boston and stay at the Tremont House, hoping to meet Matthew Arnold. Richard Cary reports that Whittier and Arnold did meet on Thanksgiving (29 November) at Fields's house.

Whittier's reference to "Spiritual Research" also tends to support this date, as Fields and her friends showed interest in Spiritualism and mediums, especially in the 1882-1884 period.

See also, Terry Heller "Communing with the Dead: Celia Thaxter, John Greenleaf Whittier, Sarah Orne Jewett, Annie Adams Fields" in *Spirits and Photos*, Sarah Orne Jewett Press 2020, 2025.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4672.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Danvers 11 Mo 30. 1883

Dear Friend

Thy poem* opens stately & solemn and beautiful,

In the 3rd line of the 4th verse, I do not ~~quite~~ quite like the word "lawn", and should they not float "oer" instead of ["on" *?*]? How would this do: "Float ghostly mists on soundless winds outdrawn." "

The plural in the first line of the 5th verse should be plural in all the other lines.

6th verse — why another teacher since no other is mentioned? Why not say, "A mighty Teacher came", and I should prefer for the 2d line this

"The words He spake were spirit & were life;"

I think I should put the 8th & 9th verses somewhat as follows:

"There in the dark they questioned yet again,
After that light went out. " Behold the pit!
Whither the Master went through blood & pain
Into the silence. Let us worship it!
They clothed their lives with pall & winding sheet
Dwelt with dead bones, a ghastly dance they led,
Smiled cruelly & called the horror sweet,
And the soul's hunger with pollution fed."

And perhaps the 10th verse might be thus rendered

"Yet through felt darkness clove a simple ray.
The Master's birth-star glimmered in the east,
And they who watched it learned of Him to pray
For a clearer vision & for light increased."

The 'concluding' verses I dare not touch. Their sweetness, tenderness & solemnity imprefs one deeply, as indeed does the entire poem. I have only ventured suggestions with a feeling of awe as if touching sacred things. I know

[*Page 2*]

thy own taste & judgment may be relied on to dispose rightly of my suggestions, and that thee

will pardon [them *corrected*], as coming from thy affectionate friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

poem: Whittier is discussing a draft of Fields's "Death, Who art Thou?" The poem was first published in *Harper's New Monthly* 87 (October 1893), pp. 705-6; it was collected as the final poem in *The Singing Shepherd* (1895). A cursory reading indicates that Fields made creative use of Whittier's suggestions. It is notable that Fields waited a decade after Whittier's letter to publish the poem. See Fields to Whittier of 2 December 1883.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields Papers and Addenda Box 12: mss FI 5637, Folder 2.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich

[*December 1883*]*

Dearest Lilian

Mrs. Vincent* accepts. We are much pleased, and shall be hoping to see you and Mr. Aldrich at Seven o'clock on Sunday evening. Mrs. Fields* is writing to Mr. Booth* and hopes that you will speak a friendly word too and make sure, [if *?*] from her*

[*Page 2*]

of our seeing him. I think it will be a perfectly beautiful tea party!

Yours always lovingly

Sarah —

148 Charles St —

Friday —

Notes

December 1883: This tentative date is supported by knowing of another letter probably of 1883, Sarah Orne Jewett to Carrie Jewett Eastman, in which Jewett reports having recently met Mrs. Vincent during a meal in the Annie Fields home at 148 Charles St., Boston.

Mrs. Vincent: Almost certainly this is Mary Ann Farlin Vincent (1818-1887), a British born Irish-American actor. She began her acting career in 1834, and so in 1883, she would have been on the stage for nearly 50 years. She married James R. Vincent (d. 1850). She joined the stock company of the Boston Museum theater in 1852, where she continued until her death.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Mr. Booth: Edwin Booth (1833-1893) was a founding member of the New York Players Club in 1888. Booth was an internationally famous American-born Shakespearean actor, a member of the circle of friends in which Jewett moved. His brother, John Wilkes Booth (1835-1865), assassinated President Abraham Lincoln.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Annie Adams Fields to Lilian Aldrich

148 Charles St.

Sunday

[*December 1883*]*

Dear Lilian:

I have not forgotten the opportunity you gave me for seeing Mr. & Mifs Booth* at your house today, but I have been unwell and have not ventured out at all. This has been one of the unfortunate seasons for me during their visit but I shall store up these lost occasions and wreak them upon their innocent heads by & by! Ever lovingly to your and His Grace,* Annie Fields.

Notes

December 1883: 1883 is penciled in another hand at top right of page 1. This date is reasonable, for another letter tentatively dated in December 1883 shows Jewett making the acquaintance of Edwin Booth. See also Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich of December 1883.

Booth: Edwin Booth (1833-1893) was an internationally famous American-born Shakespearean actor, a member of the circle of friends in which Jewett moved. His daughter was author Edwina Booth Grossman (1861-1938). Wikipedia.

Grace: The Aldriches were whimsically nicknamed among their friends, the Duke and Duchess of Ponkapog. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: MS Am 1429, Box 6, Items 1446-1538.

Annie Adams Fields to Lilian Aldrich

Monday.

[*December 1883*]*

[*Begin letterhead*]

148. Charles Street,

Boston.

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Lilian:

I think our Sarah* would very much like to see Booth in Hamlet.* Can you without trouble to yourself arrange this? She does not know that I am writing you but I cannot very well go myself and she cannot of course go alone.

I hope you are both well. Do not trouble yourself about

[*Page 2*]

this but if the way should open will you kindly let me know.

Lovingly yours

Annie Fields

We both enjoyed "the little dinner" and Sarah also the lunch particularly.

Notes

December 1883: 1883 is penciled in another hand at top right of page 1. This date is reasonable, for another letter tentatively dated in December 1883 shows Jewett making the acquaintance of Edwin Booth.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Booth in Hamlet: Edwin Booth (1833-1893) was an internationally famous American-born Shakespearean actor, a member of the circle of friends in which Jewett moved. He frequently performed roles in William Shakespeare's tragedy, *Hamlet*, throughout his career.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: MS Am 1429, Box 6, Items 1446-1538.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Carrie Jewett Eastman

Cora's — Monday night

[*December 1883*]*

Dear Carrie

I went to ask for the hollyhocks today but I could not find any, except some in water-color or oils. I don't believe it is any use for you to wait for the people at the picture shops know pretty well what is 'going', and you see they wouldn't be so likely to copy such

[*Page 2*]

big things in chromo —* If I were you I should wait and do some from the real ones in [summer *?*], for there are lots of other things you can get lovely patterns for. I think it is splendid that you are getting on so nicely — for I know you will enjoy it more and more —

I was awfully disappointed today because O.P.* couldn't come. I had made a

[*Page 3*]

lot of little plans and I thought it would be so nice for her and for Mrs. Ellis and Mary Harriet* and Cora whom I was going to [sprise *?*] with her — I thought perhaps she might think about leaving Mother but I didn't know but you [could *corrected*] go down visiting just for a night ^or two^ to "keep company." Mrs. Fields* seemed to set her heart on it too! and we were quite dismal when the telegram came

[*Page 4*]

for we had grown sure by that time that she must be coming —

However, perhaps we can manage it some-other time — and sister will now try to resign herself only I still have a little hope that she may come tomorrow.

I have had a nice day today but a pretty busy one. I had to go to Houghton's this morning for a while. I am planning some things

[*Page 5*]

for Mr. Aldrich, and I first went to the picture stores and then to see Miss Ticknor a little while and then I stopped to look at the Duchess* — She hasn't a very good send-off for her New York visit for she lost her watch to-day a lovely repeater* that she was much attached to — wasn't it too bad. Tomorrow Cora has asked me

to go [*two deleted words*] to see the Colleen Bawn.* I

[*Page 6*]

have great hopes that I shall have privileges of the Shaughraun{.} Sister dont feel as if it would be right to spend any more money "on" it herself!

To-day dear little old Mrs. Vincent* came to lunch with us and was perfectly charming. You know she has played for nearly fifty years. She and "Warren." Everybody loves her and when it is fifty years they are going to give her a grand blow out benefit — She is a funny precise little old Englishwoman, as brisk as a bee — I have always hoped to meet her sometime. She got telling us stories about one

[*Up the left margin and then down the top margin of page 1*]

thing and another and we sat forever over the lunch table and then sat before the fire up in the library. Cora sends love and so do I. I must close in haste with love to all — from

The Queen*

Notes

December 1883: This date is inferred from Jewett's reference to her plan to see *The Colleen Bawn*. See notes below.

chromo: A color print made using chromolithography.

O.P.: A family nickname for Mary Rice Jewett.

Mrs. Ellis and Mary Harriet and Cora: Emma Harding Claflin Ellis and Cora Clark Rice. It seems likely that Jewett also refers to Mary Harriet Denny, sister of Augusta Maria Denny Tyler. Key to Correspondents.

Houghton's: Jewett's publisher, Houghton Mifflin & Co.

Mr. Aldrich: Thomas Bailey Aldrich. In 1883, Aldrich was editor of *Atlantic Monthly*, published by Houghton Mifflin. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Ticknor: Anna Eliot Ticknor. Key to Correspondents.

Duchess: Probably Lilian Aldrich, wife of Thomas Bailey Aldrich. In their close circle of friends, the couple was called the Duke and Duchess of Ponkapog, after their home near Beverly, MA.

Colleen Bawn ... Shaughraun: *The Colleen Bawn, or The Brides of Garryowen* is a melodramatic play by Irish playwright Dion Boucicault (c. 1820-1890), first performed at Laura Keene's Theatre, New York, on 27 March 1860. The play was performed frequently in Boston from 1876 through 1883 by the stock company of the Museum Theater, where Mary Ann Farlin Vincent was an actor. It seems likely that Jewett refers to performances in December of 1883. Boucicault performed in this production.

Though the transcription is uncertain, it is the case that *The Shaughraun* (1874) also is a play by Boucicault. However, Jewett's reference to privileges remains obscure.

Mrs. Vincent ... "Warren": Mary Ann Farlin Vincent (1818-1887), a British born Irish-American actor. She began her acting career in 1834, and so in 1883, she would have been on the stage for nearly 50 years. She married James R. Vincent (d. 1850). She joined the stock company of the Boston Museum theater in 1852, where she continued until her death. Also a member of the Boston Museum acting company was William Warren (1812-1888).

The Queen: A family nickname for Jewett was "The Queen of Sheba." Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Historic New England in Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett to Caroline Augusta Jewett Eastman, Jewett Family Papers: MS014.01.01.04.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

148 Charles St. Dec. 2d 1883 —

Boston.

My dear friend:

How can I thank you for your note!* There was no one else in the world who could do this for me and I am grateful for [this *corrected*] new proof of your love to us both.*

Perhaps someday we may still talk over one or two of the changes, but the rest I most joyfully adopt.

The Emerson lecture which Matthew Arnold* has had so much at heart came off

[*2*]

yesterday before a very full house. He wished to send you a ticket but I told him you really were

too far away to come even if you were strong enough{.} So he gave it up reluctantly. It was a noble discourse, but you will read it someday and it is almost as well to read him because you know how hard it is to get through the ear, such a mass of compacted thought all at once.

[*3*]

He was greatly pleased with its receptions and will repeat it by and by at the Tremont Temple.

I received a note from Lucy Larcom* a few days ago to tell me she was better and was going away to make a visit at some mysterious place! She did not say where { — } not wishing to be discovered apparently! So we will respect her incognito and the decision to get the annuity would seem to have been a good one.

I hope you are better though you do not say so in your note, but you are at Danvers with Phoebe* and the dogs

[*4*]

and this I am glad to know. I another week Sarah Jewett means to come back to me for few days and at Christmas time she hopes to come for the winter.

Dear friend I thank you again. If you were only here, or a little nearer how glad I should be!

Affectionately yours

Annie Fields.

"In School Days" and Longfellows ^poem of "The^ Bridge"* received a stately welcome into the halls of song yesterday —

Notes

note: See Whittier to Fields of 30 November 1883.

both: Fields and Sarah Orne Jewett.

Emerson lecture ... Matthew Arnold: British poet and critic, Matthew Arnold (1822-1888), visited the United States in October 1883-March 1884. In *Memorabilia of John Greenleaf Whittier,* Richard Cary says that Whittier and Arnold met at the home of Annie Fields around Thanksgiving of 1883.

American author Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882). Wikipedia.

Lucy Larcom: Lucy Larcom (1824-1893) was a popular American author and teacher, a close friend of Whittier and Fields. For an account of the Larcom-Fields friendship and of establishing an annuity for Larcom, see Rita Gollin, *Annie Adams Fields*, pp. 106-113

Phoebe: Phebe Woodman (1869-1953) was the adopted daughter of Whittier's cousin Abby Johnson Woodman (1828-1921). See *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittie*r v. 1, p. 337.

"In School Days" Longfellows ^poem of "The^ Bridge": Fields refers to Whittier's poem, "In School-days," and also "The Bridge" by American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882). Both poems were first published years before this letter. While it is not yet certain to what event Fields refers, possibly she has noted the appearance of musical arrangements of the two poems.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Pickard-Whittier papers: MS Am 1844. Box 2, Item 122. Fields, Annie (Adams) 1834-1915. 61 letters; 1873-1892.

Christina Rossetti to Sarah Orne Jewett

30 Torrington Square — London — W.C.

England

[*December*]* 4th 1883

My dear Mifs Jewett

Thank you for your little story book* and yet more for the friendly feeling which sends it me. If the fiction has any basis of fact, surely those were pleasant experiences! Yet I hope every year will bring you experiences deeper and pleasanter and even better worth dwelling on.

[*Page 2*]

This remark is more natural at my age than at yours, you may answer. If so, let us meet in those hearty wishes for Xmas and the New Year which we can exchange and which I truly offer you.

Sincerely yours

Christina G. Rofsetti.

[*Page 3*]

I should like Mrs Fields* to remember me too: will you put in a word for me?

Notes

December: This month is suggested by Rossetti offering Christmas greetings. Jewett and Fields had met Rossetti during their 1882 trip to Europe.

book: Which book Jewett sent Rossetti is not yet known. Her new story collection in 1883 was *The Mate of the Daylight*, which included two first-person "autobiographical" pieces: "The Confession of a House-Breaker" and "A Little Traveler."

Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Miller Library, Special Collections, Colby College, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1.

Julia Ward Howe to Annie Adams Fields

241 Beacon St. Dec. 11th

[*1883*]*

Dear Mrs Fields,

I am just back, from the heart of Wisconsin, and am glad to find that Mr Arnold is still in these parts. Is he with you still? And would he accept

[*Page 2*]

a small poor luncheon at my hands before he departs?

I write to you, because I think you may easily ascertain this for me, and shall be very much obliged if you will kindly do so. This, supposing him to be under your roof. Yr's sincerely

Julia W. Howe.

Notes

1883: British author, Matthew Arnold, made a lecture tour of the United States and Canada in 1883-4. Wikipedia and Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 7, Item 302, III. Letters to Annie Adams Fields.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Oak Knoll

12th Mo 17. 1883*

My dear Friend

At my age one does not care to take much "note of time" or Birthdays, but, looking on the chill snow storm this morning I am reminded that another year has passed; and I confess to a feeling of sadness & loneliness, not indeed unmindful of gratitude to God for many blessings. Turning to the Emerson Calendar* I found for the day some lines from

[*Page 2*]

his "World Soul": —

"Love wakes anew this throbbing heart
and we are never old.
Over the winter glaciers
I see the summer glow,
And through the wild piled snow drift
The warm rose-buds below."

Reading them I took heart and felt they were "words fitly spoken."* The storm has prevented some friends from dining with me, but otherwise the day is passing comfortably.

I wonder if Sarah Jewett is with thee. Give her, if she is, a great deal of love from me. I shall hope to see you both next month.

It was like thee dear friend, to take so kindly

[*Page 3*]

my suggestions.* I felt it was [presumptuous *?*] on my part, and, besides I was by no means satisfied that I had rightly comprehended one or two passages, which I probably made less clear by my attempts to render more clearly.

As usual at this season, the daily mails [load down *?*] my writing desk with letters. I get a great many from the South now, which I am glad of, as it implies that the old slavery quarrel is well nigh done with. I only meant to send a word of greeting to-day and the assurance that

[*Page 4*]

I am always thy affectionate friend.

John G. Whittier

Notes

1883: Whittier's birthday was 17 December.

This manuscript has a penciled "6" at the top center of page 1, and a penciled "X" appears three times, in the left margin in the middle of page 1; the left margin of page 2, next to his quotation from "World Soul"; and the left margin on p. 3 about 2/3 down the page. A diagonal line is drawn through two paragraphs on pp. 2 and 3, those beginning: "I wonder if" and "It was like thee."

Emerson Calendar: In 1882, Houghton Mifflin published two literary calendars for 1883, "The Longfellow Calendar" and "The Emerson Calendar." Advertisements said: "The selections for each day of the year have been chosen with great skill from the writings of Mr. Longfellow and Mr. Emerson, and form a collection of pithy sentences of remarkable interest and value." The ad copy specifies that twenty colors were used to "produce a rich yet tasteful and artistic effect." Of the Emerson calendar, the copy notes: "A rugged giant pine-tree, its branches bearing a scroll of the words "THE EMERSON CALENDAR, 1883," in artistic lettering, forms the chief decoration.... At one side of the design is a vignette of Mr. Emerson's home in Concord. A deep orange glow of the setting sun rises over the tree-tops throwing them into bold relief."

Whittier quotes the final lines of American poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson's "World Soul." Key to Correspondents.

"words fitly spoken": See the Bible, Proverbs 25:11: "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

suggestions: See Whittier to Fields of 30 November 1883.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4801.

Annie Adams Fields to John Greenleaf Whittier

Dec. 17th 1883.

Dear friend:

I should be thinking of you today even if it were not your birthday, because we are "Snow=Bound". It is a pleasure to have the busy sounds softened to our ears and to sit by the fire. Sarah and Mary* are both here busy with Christmas preparations. The floor is strewn with

[*Page 2*]

packages small and large done up, or doing up with gay paper and gold string! For the child world at this time of all others is still our own world and we are at one with ~~them~~ children and with it.

What a tempest in a teapot our friend Matthew Arnold raised about our revered Emerson — I think you will say however when you read the essay itself that there is no scant measure either of justice or appreciation —

[*Page 3*]

On the contrary, it was a beautiful tribute to his noble character and genius. But there are a good many objections to being before one's time and though we do not exactly fry our friends on gridirons or carry them to the stake for disagreeing with us we make it "very hot" for them still in ways best known to those who have fought and [wrought *corrected*] in any unpopular cause — Mr. Arnold told

[*Page 4*]

me that [Canon Farrar *?*]* was one of the men who espouses difficult and unpopular [warfares *?*] — just now it is the crusade against [intemperance *?*], and he suffers much.

I wonder if you have a photograph of this [room where *?*] we have so often sat together! I think I will send you one on a chance and you shall throw it aside if you have another.

With every best wish in this lovely Xmas season and dearest love from Sarah and me. I am ever most affectionately your Annie Fields.

[*Up the left margin and up the right margin of page 1*]

Did you ever chance to see the Life of Annie Keary* who wrote some good stories — if not sometime I must show you the book. It is a delightful history of a woman's life.

Notes

Snow=Bound: "Snow-Bound" (1866) probably is Whittier's best known poem.

Sarah and Mary: Sarah Orne Jewett, and her sister Mary Rice Jewett.

Arnold ... Emerson: Matthew Arnold and Ralph Waldo Emerson. Key to Correspondents.

Arnold made a lecture tour of the United States and Canada in 1883-4.

Fields probably refers in part to a column that appeared the Boston *Daily Advertiser* of 11

December 1883, reporting and commenting on Arnold's recent lecture on Emerson in Boston. See James Bradley Thayer, *A Western Journey with Mr. Emerson* (1884), pp. 123-130.

Arnold's lecture, "Emerson," was published at the beginning of the May 1884 issue of *MacMillan's Magazine*.

Farrar: This transcription is uncertain; indeed, the name appears to be Fasser.

However, it seems at least possible that Arnold referred to Church of England cleric, educator and author, Frederic William Farrar (1831-1903). Wikipedia.

Keary: *Memoir of Annie Keary by her Sister* (1882), a biography of British author, Annie Keary (1825-1879) by Eliza Harriett Keary (1827-1918). For Keary's critical interest in Spiritualism, see especially pp. 130-35.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

Saturday morning

Dec. 29, [*1883*]*

My dear Friend

It seems so long since I wrote you that I dont like to count up the time — I hope you received the Mate of the Daylight,* who made one of his very first voyages in covers [*possibly a comma*] to the port of Danvers?* I believe he is doing very well so far, but I am mindful of your good advice about

[*Page 2*]

writing a long story though far be it from me to give any hint of such a thing to the world outside me!

— I have been here a fortnight now, though I was away in Exeter last week keeping my Grandfather's birthday. He was in high spirits and might have been a hundred instead of ninety-five,* for the noble pride he took in his age — He appeared in a

[*Page 3*]

new suit of clothes and we all teased him for being a dandy and made ourselves particularly merry at his expense — and he gave us some of his best Burgundy and an excellent dinner, and altogether it was a fine occasion. He has made up his mind to be a hundred, and he is not to be beaten by even Time, I believe, if one can judge anything from

[*Page 4*]

the success of past resolutions.

— I was greatly disappointed when I found that you were not coming to town — some how I took it for granted that this winter would be like last — and I should see you often — I missed you so much the other day when I went to the Winthrop House to see the Sandpiper —*

Dear A. F.* is pretty well and you dont know how often we talk about you, and wish for you — She sends her love and so do I.

Yours always affectionately

S. O. J.

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

Tell Phebe — Roger* is back in town being much admired and enjoying himself immensely{.}

Notes

1883: Jewett's *The Mate of the Daylight* appeared at the end of 1883. Her grandfather Perry's 95th birthday also fell in 1883.

In the upper left corner of page 1 is what appears to be a random mark, 3 sides of a square.

Danvers: Whittier's home in Danvers, MA, was not on the coast. Richard Cary says: "In 1875 Whittier's cousins, the Misses Johnson and Abby J. Woodman, purchased a farm of sixty acres in Danvers and invited him to make his home there whenever he wished. The place was notable for beautiful lawns, orchards, gardens, and grapevines. Whittier suggested the name of 'Oak Knoll,' which was immediately adopted."

Mate of the Daylight: Jewett's story, "The Mate of the Daylight" first appeared in *Atlantic* 50 (July 1882) and was collected in *The Mate of the Daylight and Friends Ashore* at the end of 1883. Jewett has sent Whittier a copy of the book.

ninety-five: Jewett's grandfather, William Perry, celebrated his 95th birthday on 20 December 1883.

Winthrop House ... Sandpiper: Norma H. Mandel says that in 1882, Thaxter began staying regularly at the Winthrop Hotel, "a small, inexpensive, quiet hotel on Bowdoin Street in Boston."

Sandpiper was the nickname for Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

A.F.: Annie Adams Fields.

Phebe — Roger: Richard Cary says: "Phebe Woodman Grantham was the adopted daughter of Whittier's cousin Abby J. Woodman. In her childhood she lived at Oak Knoll and was the object of much affection by Whittier, who wrote the poem "Red Riding Hood" for her.

Roger was a Jewett family dog, who died in 1889. See Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett, 21 June 1889.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, Pickard-Whittier papers: Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 12 letters to unidentified persons; [n.d.]. Box:12 Identifier: MS Am 1844, (8616).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Danvers

12th Mo 31. 1883

My dear friend

I have had all the world and the rest of the folks writing me for the last fortnight and have hardly had time to tell thee how much pleasure the photograph gave me. Some of the pleasantest moments of my life are associated with that room. The picture is excellent, but looking at it, I miss something — the kind face* that used

[*Page 2*]

to greet me there, and I think of Emersons* words:

— "The silent organ loudest chants
The Master's requiem."

I am glad to know by her letter that our dear Sarah Jewett is with thee, — with her friend Roger.* I wish I could join the trio.

The snow lies white all about us here — ~~and~~ ^save where^ the wonderful red sunrises and sunsets color it. I always think of [Celia Thaxter* "Portent" *so written*] when I see this strange appearance:

“Is it judgment day?” I said,
gazing out o’er billows red,
Gazing up at crimson vapors

[*Page 3*]

crowding, drifting overhead
“Is the end of time at hand?
Is this pageant strange & grand,
A portent of destruction blazing fierce
O’er sea and land?”

I wish the wise scientists would come to some agreement as [to *? corrected*] what it means. I suspect we have drifted [into *corrected*] the nebulae, cosmic stuff of which worlds are made. Who knows but that we shall have another moon? And now they say a comet is coming.* Perhaps he is coming tail foremost, and the new phenomenon is caused by the sun shining through the caudal appendage.

What with Phebe* & the dogs, and Rip Van Winkle* the cat, and a tame grey squirrel who hunts our pockets for nuts. — we continue to get through the

[*Page 4*]

short, dark days. I hope in a few days I shall get to Amesbury, where heretofore I have always welcomed the New Year. I am grieved to hear of Mrs Claflins* continued illness.

Lucy Larcom* is very grateful for the annuity & the [$221 *?*]. She cannot conjecture where it comes from — thinks the Lord did it!

I suppose you have read the last installment of "The Wizard's Son{.}" How wonderfully the interest is kept up!

Wishing thee and Sarah a Happy New Year I am ever affectionately and very gratefully thy friend

John G Whittier

Notes

1883: The final digit of Whittier's date is ambiguous, but internal evidence indicates an 1883 composition date. See notes below.

This manuscript has a penciled "7" at the top center of page 1, and a penciled "X" appears twice, in the left margin near the bottom of page 1 and the left margin of page 2, next to the paragraph that mentions Celia Thaxter. A penciled diagonal line is drawn through the sentence that mentions Sarah Jewett.

the kind face: Almost certainly Whittier refers to Annie Fields's husband, James T. Fields, who died 24 April 1881.

Fields has given Whittier a photograph of the library of her Charles Street home in Boston,

perhaps the one reproduced in the Wikipedia article on Fields. See Fields to Whittier of 17 December 1883.

Emersons: Whittier quotes the final couplet of American Poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson's "Dirge" (1847). Key to Correspondents.

Roger: Roger was a Jewett family dog, who died in 1889. See Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett, 21 June 1889.

Celia Thaxter: Key to Correspondents. Her poem "Portent" appears in Jewett's edition of *The Poems of Celia Thaxter* (1896).

comet is coming: The 12P/Pons-Brooks Comet appeared in one of its 71 year cycle of visits in January 1884.

Phebe ... Rip Van Winkle: Phebe Woodman (1869-1953), adopted daughter of Whittier's cousin Abby Johnson Woodman (1828-1921). See *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* v. 1, p. 337.

Whittier has named his cat after the character who sleeps much of his life away in American author, Washington Irving's (1783-1859) story, "Rip Van Winkle."

Mrs Claflins: Whittier maintained a friendship with Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin (see Key to Correspondents.) and her husband, William Claflin, a prominent Republican politician.

Lucy Larcom: Lucy Larcom (1824-1893) was a popular American author and teacher, a close friend of Whittier and Fields. For an account of the Larcom-Fields friendship and of establishing an annuity for Larcom, see Rita Gollin, *Annie Adams Fields*, pp. 106-113

The Wizard's Son: Margaret Oliphant (1828-1897) was the popular Scottish author of *The Wizard's Son* (1884). The novel was serialized in the United States in *Littell's Living Age*, 158-160 April 1883- March, 1884, where Jewett, Fields and Whittier read it.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 71-4706.

Undated Letters Probably from 1883

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich

[*Begin letterhead*]

148. Charles Street.

Boston.

[*End letterhead*]

[*1883*]*

Dear Lilian

All Mr. Pierces* tickets had first class seats, and ^ [*unrecognized insertion* wet! *or* yet! *?*] the Directors have sent a formal invitation beside —

I will see about the list ^for Mr. Paine^* { — }[bless *corrected*] your dear heart for thinking of it — and I believe Mr. Paine was to ask the governor, so I dont

[*Page 2*]

think we can very well interfere but I will ask Mr. Paine or have Mrs Fields* — about the box.

Mrs. Howells sent Mr. Howells* down this morning so that will answer her note.

Forgive this letter and still love you aff —

Sadie —*

Notes

1883: This date in brackets appears in the upper right corner of page 1, penciled in another hand. No rationale for this choice is given. In the absence of any other helpful information, I have chosen to accept this date. Knowledge of a ticketed event in Boston involving the persons named could resolve this date problem.

Mr. Pierces: Almost certainly this is Henry Lillie Pierce (1825-1896). Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Paine: Though not certainly, this probably is Robert Treat Paine, Jr. (1835-1910), a Boston lawyer, philanthropist and social reformer, who among other positions was for a time president of the Associated Charities of Boston, with which Annie Adams Fields was connected.

Without further information, identifying the invited governor also is problematic. One of Jewett's friends was one-time Massachusetts Governor William Claflin (1818-1905). In 1883, the current state governor was Benjamin

Franklin Butler (1818-1893), though his re-election bid failed in November, and he left office early in 1884.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

Mrs Howells ... Mr Howells: Elinor and William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents.

Sadie: Sadie Martinot, after the American actress of that name, was a nickname for Jewett with the Aldriches. Key to Correspondents.

On the other side of the fold on page 2 Jewett's signature seems to appear again: — Sadie! However, this transcription is uncertain.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Eben Norton Horsford

Tuesday morning

[*1883*]*

[*Begin letterhead*]

148. Charles Street.

Boston.

[*End letterhead*]

My dear Friend

I shall try to see [dear *corrected*] Whittier* today and only hope that he may not have flown suddenly for this will so deeply interest him — I am sure it interests us more and more. — I will only stop to say how much Mrs. Fields* thanks

[*Page 2*]

you for the cheque — which has come when she was particularly wishing for one!* — and all other things I will keep until I see you on Thursday afternoon. I am looking forward to the little visit with so much pleasure

Love to all from

Sarah —

Notes

1883: Willoughby places this letter in his selection between those of 1881 and 1884. It seems likely that Jewett may refer to an early expression of Horsford's idea of erecting a monument to Quaker refugees who came to his estate on Shelter Island, near Long Island, NY in the 17th century. See notes for Jewett to Horsford of 22 March 1884 and Field to Horsford below.

Horsford gave Fields a donation for her use at Associated Charities in January of 1883. This letter may refer to a similar gift in early 1884.

Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields.

cheque: Probably, Professor Horsford has contributed to Annie Fields's work with Associated Charities of Boston. See Fields's "thank you" below.

The manuscript is held by the Fales Library and Special Collections, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University. Sylvester Manor Archive 1649-1996, MSS.208, IV: Horsford Family, Box 63: Folder 41. Jewett, Sarah Orne: Maine & Massachusetts. John W. Willoughby published a transcription in "Sarah Orne Jewett and Her Shelter Island: Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett and Annie Fields to Eben Norton Horsford," *Confrontation* (Long Island University) 8 (1974): 72-86. New transcription and notes.

Annie Adams Fields to Eben Norton Horsford

Tuesday. [*1883*]*

[*Begin letterhead*]

148. Charles Street,

Boston.

[*End letterhead*]

Dear Professor Horsford:

Your generous hand always seems to open at just the right moment for me. I was wishing I could employ a young woman for a month, one who interests me by her nature and acquirements as well as by her great [need *corrected*], the kind in short which [you *corrected*] yourself most like to help.

What an interesting

[*Page 2*]

thing this monument* of yours is and what a good inscription and plan you have for it! Sarah* will tell you on Thursday how much we liked it.

She tells me she has already sent you a word of thanks from me, but I love to

[*Page 3*]

send my own all the same.

With affectionate wishes to you all, believe me

Gratefully yours

Annie Fields.

Notes

1883: John W. Willoughby places this letter in his article between those of 1881 and 1884. I have placed it tentatively in 1883 on the grounds that Horsford seems to have informed Fields of his plan for a monument that was dedicated in July 1884.

Horsford gave Fields a donation for her use at Associated Charities in January of 1883. This letter may refer to a similar gift at the end of the year.

monument: Willoughby writes:

> Horsford designed a monument to Nathaniel Sylvester, the emigrant from England to Shelter Island [in Long Island, NY] who gave his name to Sylvester Manor; the monument is referred to in an earlier letter and the "great day" when it was installed and dedicated in the Quaker Graveyard on Shelter Island in this letter. Edwin Austin Abbey painted a historical painting of the Southwicks, a Quaker family given shelter on Shelter Island by Nathaniel Sylvester. John Greenleaf Whittier wrote a poem, "Banished From Massachusetts: On a Painting by E. A. Abbey," which reached his publishers too late to be included in *The Bay of Seven Islands and Other Poems* (1863), but which was included in *St. Gregory's Guest and Recent Poems* (1886).

See also the *Friends' Intelligencer*, Volume 52 (1895), p. 671. These sources indicate that the monument was erected in July 1884.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Fales Library and Special Collections, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University. Sylvester Manor Archive 1649-1996, MSS.208, IV: Horsford Family, Box 59: Folder 35. Fields, Annie Adams: Connecticut, Maine & Massachusetts. A transcription was published in John W. Willoughby, "Sarah Orne Jewett and Her Shelter Island: Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett and Annie Fields to Eben Norton Horsford," *Confrontation* (Long Island University) 8 (1974): 72-86. New transcription and notes.